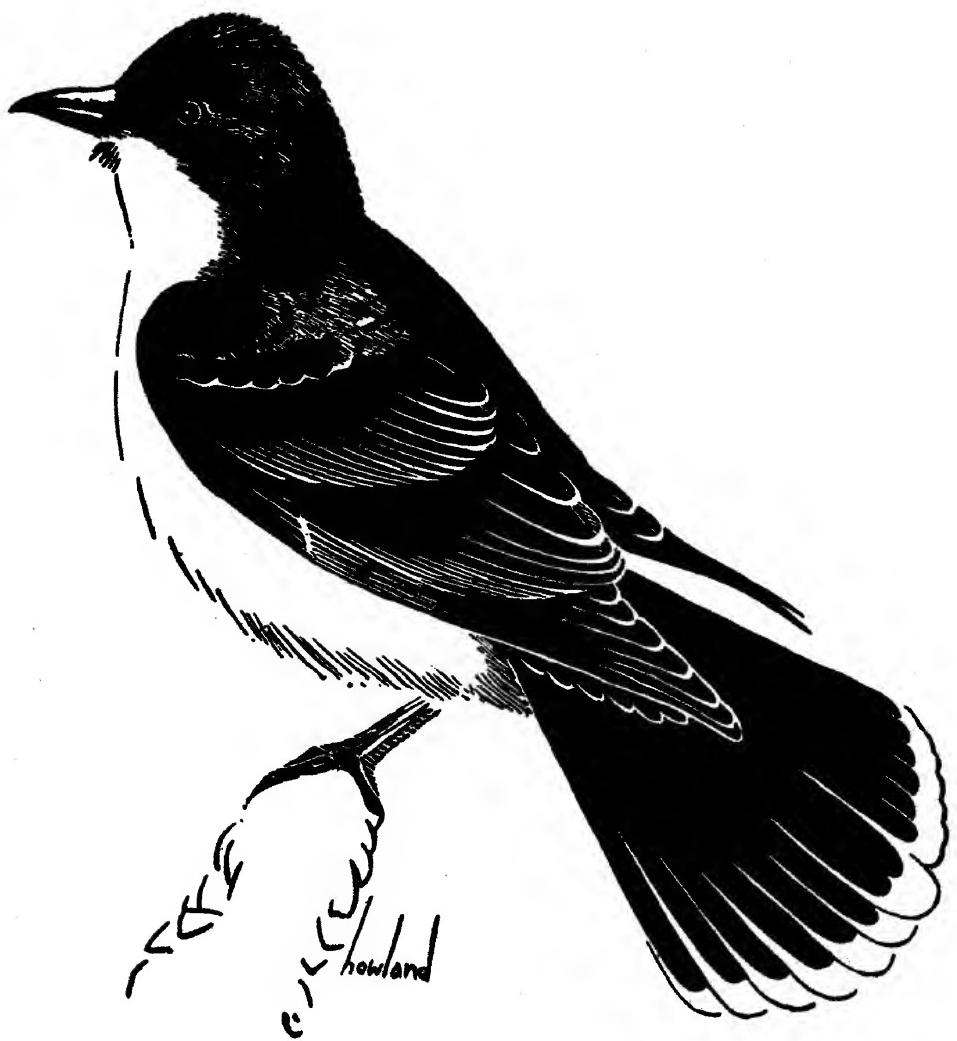


# *The* **KINGBIRD**

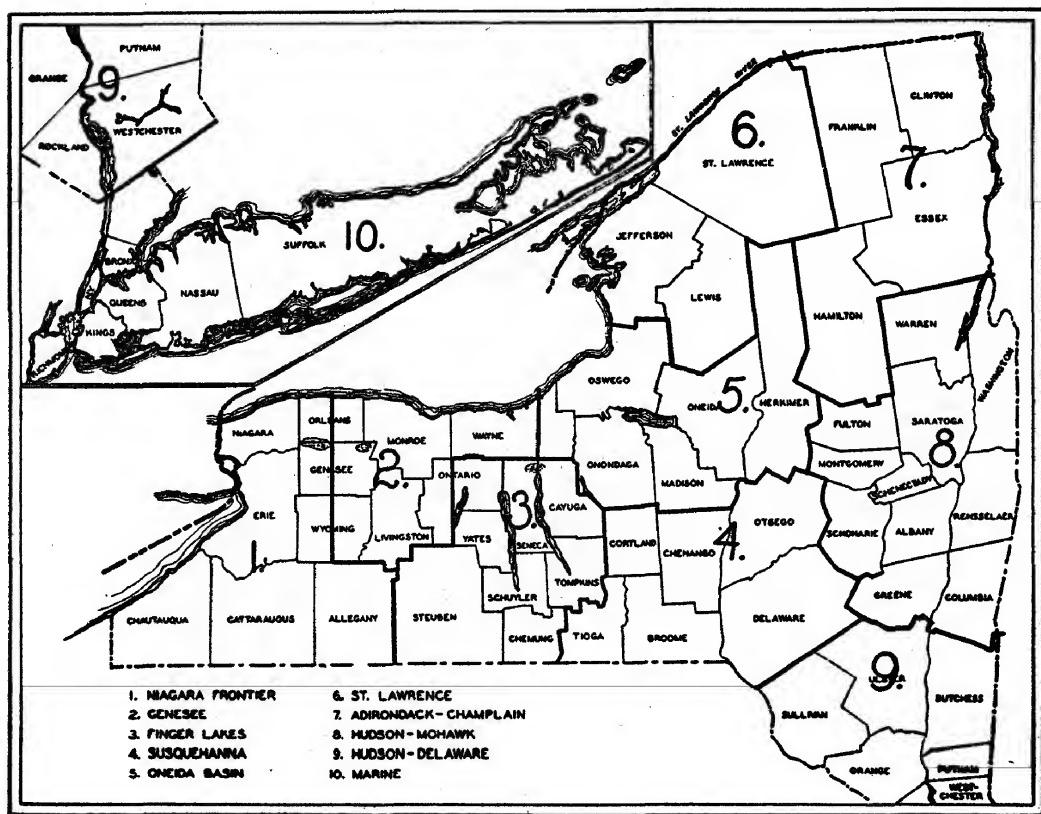


VOLUME VIII, No. 2

JULY • 1958

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

## **REPORTING REGIONS**



**For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2.**

**ADVERTISING INCOME  
HELPS TO DEFRAY PRINTING COSTS  
FOR THE KINGBIRD.**

**Prospective Advertisers Are Invited to  
Contact the Treasurer.**



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

---

Vol. 8 No. 2

July, 1958

Pages 33 - 64

---

## CONTENTS

Theodore Roosevelt, The Great Naturalist	John J. Elliott	34
The New A. O. U. Check-list from the Viewpoint of the Amateur	Eugene Eisemann	37
Excerpts from the Minutes of the Federation Council Meeting	Alice E. Ulrich	39
Field Notes:		
Winter Record of Grasshopper Sparrow in Columbia County		42
Red-tailed Hawks Attack Incubating Great Horned Owl		42
Hawk Flights at Jones Beach, Long Island		42
Highlights of Spring Migration:		
April-May, 1958	James K. Meritt	43
Regional Reports for Spring Migration, 1958		44

---

*Editor — MINNIE B. SCOTLAND*

### *Editorial Board*

JOHN B. BELKNAP	JOHN J. ELIOTT
LESLIE E. BEMONT	SALLY HOYT
ALLEN H. BENTON	JAMES K. MERITT
EUGENE EISENMAN	FRITZ SCHEIDER

*Business and Circulation Manager — ALLAN S. KRONICK*

*Cover Design — DOUGLAS L. HOWLAND*

---

**THE KINGBIRD** is published four times a year (May, July, October and January) by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. Publication office is 42 Continental Ave., Cohoes, New York. Publication is sent free to all individual members of the Federation. Membership in the Federation is \$2.50 per year. Single copies: Seventy-five cents.

APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Miss Audrey Louise Wrede, 3109 Beverley Road, Brooklyn 26, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EXCHANGES AND BACK COPIES are handled by the Treasurer, Gerald R. Rising, 72 Allen's Creek Road, Rochester 18, N. Y.

## THEODORE ROOSEVELT, THE GREAT NATURALIST

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

It is fitting to pay tribute to the twenty-sixth president of the United States — Theodore Roosevelt — in this, the centennial year of his birth. This great man was born at 28 East 20th Street, New York City, October 27, 1858. Early in life he became interested in nature, was taken to Europe at 11 years of age and at 14 hunted along the Nile in Egypt, and also in Palestine. While there he became acquainted with numerous species which proved of assistance in identifying many birds in his 1909 visit to big game country in Africa.

In 1873 the family moved to Oyster Bay, Long Island, and Oyster Bay was his home, although occupied intermittently, and there he died. As a child he suffered asthma attacks which later he overcame through rugged outdoor living. Still puny at 17 he entered Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1876 and that summer made a trip into the Adirondacks to study birds. This Adirondack trip and subsequent ones furnished field work for his joint manuscript with Henry D. Minot, "Birds of the Adirondacks in Franklin County, N. Y." published in 1877. This has been a popular reference for visitors to the Adirondacks for more than three-quarters of a century.

This catalogue was written in the mountains and contains brief notes on 97 species of birds based on observations made in August 1874, August 1875, and June 22 to July 9, 1877. Young Roosevelt, only 15 years old on his first student visit, was principally responsible for the records. Mr. Minot, also a Harvard student, was with him only during the last week of June on the June 22 - July 9 visit. Minot's arrival in late June was highly prolific, however, compared to various August visits by Roosevelt among silent and moulting birds, and they thus acquired a better listing in this period. Roosevelt's and Minot's observations were made principally around the St. Regis Lakes.

Interesting are the old names given such as: Red-bellied Nuthatch for Red-breasted, Blue Yellow-backed for Parula Warbler, Orange-throated for Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Flycatcher for Canada Warbler, Bay-winged for Vesper Sparrow and Snow-bird for Junco, as well as others. His presumed to be breeding Tennessee Warbler has a question mark behind it and is probably a questionable record, although the Tennessee has been recorded as extremely rare in breeding season in Essex county with one or two records only. His locating the American Three-toed Woodpecker shows good perception and also his declaring it less common than the Arctic.

Young Roosevelt continued his education and graduated from Harvard in June, 1880. During the year before, March, 1879, after some collecting and observations, he wrote "Notes on Some of the Birds of Oyster Bay, Long Island". This pamphlet contains listings of 17 species and references to seven more. His description of the predatory habits of weasels after the Bob-white agrees with observations of this writer as he remarks: "The weasel is a bad foe of these birds. I have seen one track a covey across stubble fields like a dog and then creep cautiously up, pounce on one and kill it instantaneously."

He calls the Acadian Flycatcher (a non breeder for many years on Long Island) a rather common summer resident, frequenting dry, rather dense

woods and describes its notes very well. He also shot an Ipswich Sparrow and saw another on a sandy beach along the Sound. The two above discussed pamphlets appear to be the only important eastern ornithological writings of this famous author, although many of his books abound in natural history subjects.

Roosevelt devoted much of his early age to natural history in his college courses and these assisted him greatly by sharpening his powers of perception, reasoning and creative thinking. His visit in the west brought him in contact with rapid destruction of large game animals, such as the buffalo, and influenced him in later life while president when he became champion of sound conservation policies. Therefore, in his half century of strenuous activity, his interest in world life was never abandoned even though politics crowded in on him from time to time.

By the time he had entered Harvard at 17 he had collected and preserved specimens for which he founded a museum for his own use. He entered a "sparrow war" on the inimicable behavior to American birds of the English sparrow, which was a popular pastime while he was a sophomore, and on which he wrote several short articles. He taught a Sunday School class in a large Cambridge Episcopal Church for three years. In his third year he ranked thirteenth in his class, principally through excellent grades in two natural history subjects. His tremendous urge along these lines came to an end, at least temporarily, around his senior year as he became interested in political economy and metaphysics. His decision was probably influenced by the trend of the times to consider biology largely a science of microscope and dead specimens, perhaps influenced by the German Universities of that day.

His interest in ornithology waned during his senior year at Harvard, and a short while later he wrote "The Naval War of 1812", was married, became active in the National Guard and New York State Legislature. Around this time he gave the bulk of his museum (over 200 specimens) to the Smithsonian Institute.

After graduating, he spent much time in western United States, got out a few short field notes, and after his unsuccessful attempt to become Mayor of New York City in 1886, he wrote three books with many references to natural history. These were: "Hunting Trips of a Ranch Man", "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail", and "The Wilderness Hunter". At this time Roosevelt was considering writing as a life work.

He was regarded as a hunter and naturalist with a peculiar admixture of each, was inimical to wanton killing and seeing it all around him, he became a proponent of conservation. The soothing panorama of prairie and high mountains helped him endure his grief following the death of his wife and mother the same day — February 14, 1884.

Roosevelt married Edith Kermit Carow — a life-long friend in 1886. He brought her to Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, which had been completed about 1885. Five children followed: Theodore, Jr., Kermit, Ethel, Archibald and Quentin.

From then on Roosevelt's life became largely political, although he had many controversial arguments with biologists regarding the value of field work versus laboratory research. He was appointed New York City Police Commissioner in 1895 and Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1897. He resigned

to become Lt. Colonel of the First Volunteer Cavalry which became the "Rough Riders" of the Spanish American War in 1898. In that year he was also elected Governor of New York State and in January, 1900, became Vice President. With the death of President McKinley in 1901, Roosevelt, at the age of 43, became President of the United States. From then to the end of his terms, March 4, 1909, records are studded with the creation of numerous wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, buffalo preserves, forestry schools and 51 bird reservations in 17 states and territories. This was accomplished besides starting the Roosevelt Dam in 1903, the Panama Canal in 1904 and a world-wide cruise of the fleet in 1907.

After the presidency, Theodore Roosevelt sailed on March 23, 1909 for a hunting trip to Africa and returned in 1910. He began a South American trip in 1913 and in late 1914 returned to New York after a 600 mile trip down the River of Doubt. Products of these trips were his excellent books "African Game Trails" and "Through the Brazilian Wilderness", published by Charles Scribner and Sons.

Sagamore Hill was a happy home for the President, his five children and their half-sister Alice (later Mrs. Nicholas Longworth). Although trips afield were not unusual and general outdoor sports were indulged in, yet there appears to have been no serious bird study or ornithological writings by the Colonel as in the days of his youth, even after he became ex-president. In fact, after a few years, storm clouds gathered over Europe — World War I became a reality and Roosevelt's four boys, now men, volunteered for service in France.

The father offered to raise a division of over-draft-age men for service overseas, but was turned down. He turned to writing patriotic speeches and articles. After a time came tragic news from the front. Archibald was wounded, Theodore was wounded and gassed and Quentin was killed. All this had a very telling effect on the Colonel.

The war was over and the Armistice signed. He and Mrs. Roosevelt looked forward soon to the return of the remaining three sons, but during an illness in early January, 1919, he fell asleep one night from which he didn't awaken. Just past 60 years of age he was buried in a little cemetery in Oyster Bay.

A fine tribute to this great naturalist was the naming, some years ago, of the magnificent Roosevelt Hall of the American Museum of Natural History in his honor. Also named after him is the Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary at Oyster Bay; and Sagamore Hill, his home for 35 years, is now a National Shrine. 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island, New York.

---

## THE NEW A. O. U. CHECK-LIST FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE AMATEUR

EUGENE EISENMANN

The long-awaited Fifth Edition of the A. O. U. *Check-list of North American Birds* has at last appeared. It will be the basic reference work for distribution and nomenclature in any ornithological library. This is a massive volume about seven hundred pages, much larger than the previous 1931 edition — chiefly because ranges are given in far greater detail.

A useful feature is that the range of the species as a whole is outlined before each subspecies is detailed. This is one aspect of the sound policy to emphasize the species entity, rather than the subspecies. With the 1931 Check-list long obsolete, there has been a great need for a modern single source of distributional data, summarizing a vast quantity of scattered information. The new Check-list provides a base — a new starting point — by which one may test whether a record is significant, or at least unusual. In a work of such large scope, there are bound to be cases where the ardent student of local distribution will find himself in disagreement with a Check-list statement of local status, or where a published record will seem to have been overlooked. Oversight should not be assumed without investigation, for in many instances the A. O. U. Committee had available specimen data not known to local students, or they rejected, as inadequately substantiated, oft-repeated published records. Inevitably, there are instances of valid records overlooked at the periphery of ranges and of doubtful sight reports used as the basis for out-of-range statements without this being indicated. Apparently the systematic bibliographic search ended some years before publication, but when is not mentioned. It is a truism that no check-list is ever fully up-to-date: knowledge of bird distribution is constantly increasing, and the ranges themselves show real fluctuation.

In classification the Check-list is conservative a number of separate genera and species survive that some students would lump together. Nevertheless, there are many changes in the scientific names. This is inevitable under our system, because scientific names indicate relationships, and as knowledge accumulates opinions often change as to such relationships and as to their expression in the name. Some changes result from the operation of purely nomenclatural rules or from re-identification of the bird to which a name was attached. The alterations in technical names will occasion few surprises, as most of them had been announced previously in *The Auk* in periodic Supplements to the old Check-list.

The changes having greatest effect on the amateur relate to common or English names. Here a profound reform has been achieved. Until this Check-list, birds with several subspecies had no "official" English *species* name. Previous A. O. U. Check-lists provided each *subspecies* with a separate vernacular name, and often these names gave an inkling of the conspecific relationship. For example, who would surmise that the birds designated in previous Check-lists as Double-crested Cormorant, Florida Cormorant, Farallon Cormorant and White-crested Cormorant were all subspecies of the same species, indistinguishable in the field? The lack of an over-all common name was especially confusing and inconvenient in the West, where a number of subspecies, inseparable in life but bearing distinct

English names, might breed in adjacent areas and might regularly occur together in winter or on migration. To meet the need of an inclusive species name the Committee faced an often difficult problem of selection. In general the Committee has done a creditable job in a controversial field. Usually the most widely used American name was adopted, when not too misleading. Bird-watchers in the Northeast will have relatively few new names to learn, while those on the Pacific coast (unless already acquainted with eastern names) will have to familiarize themselves with many. Even students in the older parts of our country will wish to adopt, among others, Red-necked Grebe (Holboell's), Great Cormorant (European), Common Egret (American), Thick-billed Murre (Brunnich's and Pallas'), Solitary Vireo (Blue-headed, Plumbeous, Cassin's, Mountain), Swainson's Thrush (Olive-backed, Russet-backed), Traill's Flycatcher (Alder, Little), Common Grackle (Purple, Florida, Bronzed), Rufous-sided Towhee (Eastern, White-eyed, Spurred, Spotted, Arctic, etc.).

In some instances, though there was only one check-list area subspecies, the bird also had a wide distribution in the Old World and the name used for the American race would have been misleading and provincial for the species as a whole. This was particularly true of New World forms of wide-ranging species designated "American". In most of such cases the species designation is now "Common". Thus, Common Merganser, Common Gallinule, Common Puffin, and Common Egret are among the many so designated. This practice might well have been varied, especially in cases where the literature provided a better alternate and where "Common" is somewhat inept. Black Scoter for *Oidemia nigra* was surely superior to Common Scoter. One very misleading change is Common Teal for the former European Teal; if the latter were deemed inaccurate, Eurasian Teal would have met the point. Other seemingly needless changes effecting no improvement are Common Crow (formerly American) and American Widgeon (Balldate). It is of course inevitable that in matters of this kind opinions will differ. Probably most amateurs would have more consistently favored names having some identification usefulness over names commemorating an early ornithologist, where both were about equally well-known: e. g. Pine-woods rather than Bachman's Sparrow. This reviewer does regret that with respect to species barely entering our area or reported only occasionally, the Check-list did not more generally adopt the names used in literature applicable to the countries where the species is resident. Thus for example, why should a pure accidental be here called Gray Sea Eagle, when in Europe where it breeds it is known as White-tailed Eagle? Why should Australasian pelagics called in their nesting areas Short-tailed and Flesh-footed Shearwaters be designated here (where they occur only casually) Slender-billed and Pale-footed? It should however be noted that in this international phase, the new Check-list shows enormous improvements, and many names have been altered to conform with usage in Europe, the West Indies or Middle America. This has at times involved drastic changes in names of birds which are just as much American as Old World, Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk), Dunlin (Red-backed Sandpiper), Whimbrel (Hudsonian Curlew), Common Snipe (Wilson's).

The most controversial decision of the Committee was the omission of all subspecific English names. Subspecific vernaculars vastly and confusingly

multiplied the number of names to be learned, gave the amateur a false impression that subspecies were discrete entities, and encouraged pretended sight identifications of races distinguishable only by expert comparison of specimen series. There were, however, arguments for supplying subspecific prefixes to the species names. Inconvenience may be experienced in some situations by the lack of an "official" English subspecific designation, though, of course, anyone competent to distinguish a subspecies should know the technical name. Still, the soundness of the policy to emphasize the species (the natural entity) and to de-emphasize the subspecies (often an arbitrary division of populations) can hardly be questioned.

In orthography the Check-list has effected a very considerable standardization. In almost all compound nouns, particularly group names, the hyphen has been discarded with the word written as one. We have Oystercatcher, Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Goldeneye, Oldsquaw. Such confusing inconsistencies of the older lists, as Redhead and Canvas-back, have disappeared; both are now a single word. Probably through oversight, a very few inconsistencies survive or have crept in, which could be easily corrected.

The book sells for \$8.00, which is far below its cost. It is reasonable at today's prices for a big volume that any true bird student, amateur or professional, will be regularly consulting over a period of many years. It should be ordered from The A. O. U. Treasurer, Dr. Charles Sibley, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

*American Museum of Natural History, New York 24*

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
FEDERATION COUNCIL MEETING  
Rochester, May 4, 1958

The eleventh annual meeting of the council of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., was called to order by President Allan S. Klonick. Delegates from 17 affiliated clubs were present.

*Financial*

The following report was given by the treasurer:

Balance on hand (January 1, 1957)	\$ 706.21
Receipts	1099.00
Expenditures	\$1162.73

Balance on hand (December 31, 1957) ----- \$ 642.48

Balance in permanent fund (December 31, 1957) -- \$ 779.75

The treasurer's report was accepted by the council.

Gerald Rising gave the report of the finance committee as follows:

Total proposed budget for 1957	\$1270.00
Expenses for 1957	\$1162.73
Proposed budget for 1958	\$1335.00

Proposed budget was accepted by the council.

*Committees*

*Conservation:* Mr. John J. Conway reported for this committee. He stated the passage of two model hawk and owl bills in the 1958 legislature.

Because of the lack of conservation suggestions and proposals from the affiliated clubs, he urged that the delegates come with proposals in the future.

The following three resolutions prepared by this committee were passed by the council:

1. That the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, arrange for the acquisition of Horse Island, at the mouth of Black River Bay, Town of Sackets Harbor, Jefferson County, New York State from the Coast Guard Service, Department of the Treasury, for a sanctuary for migrating waterfowl.

2. That in keeping with the practices in federal areas and in other states, we respectfully request the Conservation Commission of New York State to restrict hunting on the lands of Lake Ontario State Parkway from Rose's Marsh on the west to Round Pond on the east to not more than seventy-five per cent (75%) of the total area.

3. That the Federation favors the passage of legislation designed to exclude from the definition of unprotected wild birds the kingfisher and to permit the owner or occupant of lands, the members of his immediate household and his employees to shoot kingfishers attempting to take or destroy fingerlings or fish on such land.

Mr. Conway discussed briefly good procedure in handling conservation legislation.

Report made that the damage to wildlife from insect spraying is still an important problem. President Klonick left this matter with the delegates of the Alan Devoe Club and New York City area delegates as one of their conservation projects.

*Membership:* Audrey Wrede reported that applications for 24 individual membership had been received. The council accepted these applications for membership in the Federation.

The Jamestown Audubon Society was accepted as a member of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

Mr. H. Clements resolved that the Federation give Audrey Wrede a vote of thanks for her faithful and effective work as chairman of the membership committee. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Douglas C. Orbison, president of the Bedford Audubon Society, stated by letter to President Klonick, that the directors of his organization objected to the membership fee of ten cents (\$.10) per member as set down in the By-Laws. The membership of the Bedford Audubon Society is about 500 and the directors felt that with all the other projects they carry out each year their club could not afford fifty dollars (\$50.00) per annum for membership in the Federation.

Mr. Ralph O'Dell represented the Bedford Audubon Society at the council meeting and presented their views very ably. After enumerating the various activities and the amount spent on each, Mr. O'Dell stated that the Bedford Audubon Society was willing to continue their membership at a flat rate of twenty dollars (\$20.00). Many delegates of various clubs, both large and small, presented their views about the straight ten cents (\$.10) fee and several offered suggestions for raising the yearly fee aside from regular club dues. Mr. Mitchell representing the Buffalo Audubon Society, one of the largest individual clubs in the Federation, stated that his club does not see how they can afford not to be a member of the Federation, especially for the help they receive in conservation legislation. It was the opinion of the delegates present that the ten cents (\$.10) fee per member should remain.

Mr. Winston Brockner, who helped to formulate the By-Laws of the Federation, reminded the council that changing of the membership fee would require a constitutional change. Mr. Rising opposed such a change

and stated that the Federation should do everything possible to keep the Bedford Audubon Society an affiliated member of the Federation.

*Editorial, Publications and Research:* The committee discussed ways and means of maintaining the excellent quality of THE KINGBIRD. They recommend that more illustrations be used. They find need for a cumulative index to include items through the current volume. They find the magazine in good financial state. Deep thanks to Gerald Rising, the out-going editor, were extended by the committee.

Dr. Ralph Palmer reported that after long discussion the Publications Committee will have a final meeting on July 20, 1958 at Syracuse. By that time sample pages will be ready and perhaps a small group of especially qualified workers can be selected to carry on the State Book work.

Mr. Mitchell recommended that a new bibliography committee be appointed after the July meeting.

Gerald Rising in his report on the Winter Wildlife Census stated that the number of individuals reported was far below the number for previous years. The number was good considering the period of very poor weather during the time of the census.

At this time Mr. Klonick read a letter from Mr. Louie A. Wehle, which stated that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., had been awarded honorable mention in the New York State Conservation Contest for Mr. Rising's report of the Winter Wildlife Census.

Mr. Rising urged the delegates to report to their clubs the need for contributions for THE KINGBIRD. The only limitation of THE KINGBIRD is that articles must be concerned with birding in New York State. He also suggested a notes section of formal information and a section for letters to the editor which would be less formal. He also hoped that special funds can be arranged in order that more illustrations can be used in THE KINGBIRD.

*Auditing:* Miss Dorothy Niles reported that the auditors found the books of the Federation in order.

*Nominating:* Mr. Gerhard Leubner presented the slate of new officers for 1959 as follows:

President, Allan S. Klonick, Rochester

Vice-president, Mrs. William G. Irving, West Nyack

Recording Secretary, Mrs. William J. English, Amsterdam

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Etna

Treasurer, Mrs. Dayton Stoner

The slate as proposed was elected by the council. Elected to the 1959 nominating committee were: Gerald Rising, Rochester, Mr. Eddy, Syracuse, Winston Brockner, Buffalo. Elected to the auditing committee were Guy Bartlett, Schenectady, and Samuel Madison, Delmar, for 1959.

Mr. Joseph Blake asked for a discussion of a date for 1959 meeting in Watertown. He suggested a June meeting, June 5, 6, 7, being a good time. The exact date was left for further discussion.

Mr. Albert Fudge moved that the Federation express its sincere thanks to the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the Genesee Ornithological Society for a very pleasant and well organized meeting. Mrs. Irving seconded the motion and the council carried it unanimously. Adjournment followed.  
—Alice E. Ulrich, Buffalo

## FIELD NOTES

**Winter Record of Grasshopper Sparrow in Columbia County** — January 16, 1958, began to show our area a few patches of blue sky after two days of a howling blizzard that dumped nearly two feet of snow over our countryside.

Just before noon that day my office intercom rang, and an employee told me that she had found a "young" bird blowing around in the snow outside and wondered as to identification. I hurried to her apartment and found this "young" bird, much the worse for wear, on her window sill. It was nearly dead from hunger and exposure, and I hurried it to my home to care for it. However, the bird lived only a few hours.

I had never handled a Grasshopper Sparrow before and did not want to be responsible for its identification under these strange circumstances and at this time of year. I took the bird to the Alan Devoe Bird Club, and in turn it was passed on to Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr., of the New York State Museum at Albany. Dr. Reilly definitely identified the bird as a Grasshopper Sparrow and informed me that it was probably a "first" for New York State in midwinter. The bird was a female and now bears NYSM number 18312.

The identification is clear, and the story of this bird ends, but how I would like to be able to piece together the events that led to its deposit at our doorstep during this vicious storm. Where was it when those high winds overtook it? In what directions did these winds blow? Was it late in going south or was it blown back from that direction? And to add to the mystery the lady who phoned me stated that there was a second bird like it outside in the snowstorm. Were there two Grasshopper Sparrows there that day? If so, where did the second one go? These are just some of the unanswered questions that make bird study so interesting. Howard A. Munson, Livingston

**Red-tailed Hawks Attack Incubating Great Horned Owl** — In the late winter of 1957 a Red-tailed Hawk's nest was discovered in a small woodlot along Louck's Road, close to the Syracuse city limits. Incubation was underway March 11, and the two young left the nest in late May. There was no other nesting site in the small woods, and no other nearby woodlot.

On visiting this nest on Feb. 21, 1958, just after the great blizzards, I was somewhat surprised to see a Horned Owl on the nest surrounded by snow. Instead of sitting flat on the nest, she was sitting rather high and kept her head turning first to one side and then to the other. Almost immediately the explanation was apparent, as a pair of Redtails appeared circling close above the woods. At once the larger one stooped close over the sitting owl, which ducked and turned to face the buzzard at each of several succeeding stoops. During the next twenty minutes the owl was attacked nearly two dozen times; the male Red-tail occasionally taking part, but neither coming closer than a minimum of five feet from the owl.

Although it is well known that buzzard nests (both Red-tail and Red-shoulder) are frequently taken over by owls, who never construct their own nests, this is the first time that I have had opportunity to see that the take-over was accompanied by strife. It may be that the woodlot is too small for an alternate nesting site and that the Red-tails were more upset about losing this nest than is the case in larger woods where several alternate nesting sites are usually available. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse.

**Hawk Flights at Jones Beach, Long Island** — Two productive mornings were spent by the writer at Jones Beach in the fall of 1956. Observations were made north of Parking Field No. 1, west of Jones Beach Tower, on both occasions.

On October 7, 1956, with westerly winds at approximately eight miles an hour, I observed from 9:30 to 11:30 A. M. the following species: 16 Sharp-shinned, one Cooper's, six Marsh, 12 Ospreys, two Pigeon Hawks, and 13 Sparrow Hawks. On this day the wind switched from westerly to southerly, and with the change the birds began to veer directly to the west. They had been going in a southwesterly direction previously.

On October 10, 1956, in the same area, with the winds moderate to brisk in a west to northwesterly direction, I observed from 9:00 A. M. to 12:00 noon the following species: 25 Sharp-shinned, one Cooper's, one Red-tailed, eight Marsh, one Peregrine Falcon, three Pigeon Hawks, and an estimated 60 Sparrow Hawks (Ospreys drifted through in various directions but were not counted).

Most of the birds, except the Marsh Hawks and Ospreys, were first sighted in the area of the tower high in the air (at least as high as the tower), with the Sharp-shinned tending to flock in groups of three to five birds. It was interesting to see that in almost every case they would come down into the area where I was standing and dash through and around the pitch pines. From there they usually would swing across the road and over the police barracks to the northwest. Pigeon Hawks in almost every case would do this. Ospreys and Marsh Hawks would appear from anywhere, with Ospreys frequently coming in from the ocean.

From the number of bird remains to be found in this region during the fall it appears that a considerable number of hawks pass through. Although I managed to get out to this same area for a short while in the fall of 1957, I did not see any such flights as I did in 1956. However, I found the remains of number of birds — Flickers, a Cuckoo, Myrtle Warblers, Redstarts, Thrushes, a Sapsucker, etc., and other unidentifiable ones.

The reason the observations as shown above ended around 11:00 A. M. or 12:00 noon was because of the fact that the flights died off at those times insofar as quantity was concerned. — Cornelius J. Ward, 71 East Centennial Ave., Roosevelt, Long Island.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING MIGRATION:

APRIL - MAY, 1958

JAMES K. MERITT

The spring migration of 1958 might be described as paradoxical. It started rather slowly and never did quite catch up to its expected timetable. A good many species, most notably the Phoebe and Bluebird, were not only late in arriving but were unexpectedly scarce thereafter. As Sally Hoyt has pointed out, those species that normally winter in the middle Atlantic and southern states suffered population losses from moderate to perhaps heavy, such losses being attributable to the late winter cold waves and storms that plagued those regions. The May migration continued to be generally poor. Most areas reported few, if any, spectacular warbler waves, and it was the general consensus that numbers were low.

Yet in spite of these factors good flights of certain species were observed. Blue Jay flights were noted in Region 1, 2, 4, and 9. A flight of over 600 Baltimore Orioles was observed in Region 2. Although the White-crowned Sparrow migration was described as poor in Region 1, it was good in Regions 3, 7, and 8. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers, two species that would not have been affected by the late winter storms in the South, were apparently present in good numbers. Throughout the Hudson Valley the May flight of Canada Geese exceeded that of April, and Canada Geese were still present in the Buffalo area at the end of the period. A phenomenal concentration of Red-necked Grebes appeared in Region 2, and large numbers of Phalaropes were reported from Region 10.

Although warblers were generally reported in low numbers, the variety of warblers observed could hardly have been exceeded. Consider the following: Kentucky Warbler (Regions 1 and 10), Yellow-throated Warbler (Regions 2 and 9), Hooded Warbler (Region 3), Prothonotary Warbler (Regions 3, 9, and 10), Brewster's Warbler (Regions 2, 3, 4, and 10), Lawrence's Warbler (Region 3), and Connecticut Warbler (Region 2).

Other outstanding individual records include a Western Grebe in Region 1, an Eared Grebe in Region 2, Glossy Ibis in Region 2, 3, 6, and 10, a Cattle Egret in Region 9, and a White-fronted Goose in Region 3.

The Carolina Wren has in recent years been establishing itself in many

parts of the region. Most reports indicate this species survived the winter but in somewhat reduced numbers. Evening Grosbeaks were present at most localities much later than normal, thus bringing to a close one of the largest recorded incursions of this winter finch.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

The mild weather of late March continued into April which proved to be the second sunniest in 50 years. Precipitation was 1.4 inches above normal. The month was generally warm, the daily average temperature only once being below freezing and the monthly average being 4.4° F above normal. The winds during the latter half of the month prevailed in the southern quarters. In spite of these apparently favorable conditions many land bird species were somewhat late in arriving and were generally low in numbers. May averaged 1.4° F cooler than normal with slightly less precipitation than usual. This month paralleled April with continued low numbers of many species of land bird migrants.

**Loons — Ducks:** The lakes in the southern part of the region were as usual frequented by a good variety of water birds although in somewhat below normal numbers. Of interest were 300 Horned Grebes on Rushford Lake Apr 25 (Mitchell et al). A spectacular observation was that of a Western Grebe May 18 on Lake Ontario near Olcott (Lehrers). On the Buffalo Ornithological Society spring bird count Apr 13 a total of 20 Red-necked Grebes was noted, the majority on Lake Ontario east of Olcott (Axtell). Only occasionally does this rather rare species occur in such numbers. A Double-crested Cormorant in Buffalo Harbor on May 14 (Bourne) was noteworthy as the species is infrequently observed in the region. In the flooded fields near Wolcottsville a Common Egret appeared on Apr 19 (Clemesha, Laux), and apparently the same bird was there on the following day (Mitchell et al). Another Common Egret was noted on Grand Island May 30 (Heilborn). Very few Whistling Swans were observed this spring, marking one of the poorest flights on record. Canada Geese maintained high numbers into late April in Oak Orchard Swamp and the flooded fields east of Buffalo. A few lingered at least until the end of the period, 87 being reported May 31 (Norths). One to two Blue Geese and one to five Snow Geese were found among the Canada Geese at various times into May. The three small-sized geese which were seen in the Newstead sinks and Oak Orchard areas were very likely the larger of the two smaller races of the Canada Goose. Several partly white Canada Geese were seen by many observers in the same localities. Interesting was the report of a Blue-Snow Goose hybrid at Oak Orchard on Apr 12 (Webb). Ducks of many species were lower in numbers than normal and no explanation is apparent for this fact. Below normal rainfall, rapid run-off, and high evaporation during April reduced water levels in marshy areas and flooded fields but not sufficiently, it would seem, to affect duck migration.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures were observed quite frequently in widespread places and seemed somewhat more common. Several hawk flights occurred along the south shore of Lake Erie in April. 124 hawks of eight species including 43 Red-shouldered Hawks were counted there on Apr 5 (Axtell). Although the prevailing wind that day was ENE, wind from a southerly quarter seems most favorable for large hawk flights along this shore. Flights were also recorded on Apr 20, 24, and 27 (all days of prevailing southerly winds). On the last date 225 Broad-winged Hawks, 104 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and nine Red-tailed Hawks were observed in one hour (Brockners). An immature Bald Eagle was reported near Yorkshire Apr 17 (Bourne). At Irving on May 10 another Bald Eagle was seen (Brockner) and a third near Hamburg on May 29 (Bacon et al). A Peregrine Falcon, an event in this area, was noted near Hamburg on May 8 (Bourne), and the same observer saw a Pigeon Hawk on Apr 12 near Langford. Comparatively few shorebirds were observed during the period. The lack of a shallow lake shore and extensive mud flats seems to handicap this area, the shorebirds having to depend on flooded land and isolated small ponds and lakes for stopping places. A Least Sandpiper in Buffalo Harbor

on May 7 (Bourne) and three Dunlins on Grand Island Apr 27 (Webb, Drobis) mark the first migrants of these species. No Woodcock were reported in March and the first observation to come to our attention is of one near Hamburg Apr 8 (Bourne). This was also the situation with the Greater Yellowlegs, the first being reported on Apr 5 at East Eden (Bourne). Usually these species arrive well before the beginning of April. Noteworthy is the report of an Iceland Gull on Apr 25 near Dunkirk (Bourne). Common Terns were first noted at Buffalo on Apr 18 when 450 were seen in Buffalo Harbor (Mitchell). Two Caspian Terns on Apr 16 in Buffalo Harbor (Bourne) were the first migrants seen.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** No Phoebe were reported in March; the first were noted on Apr 6 at Dunkirk (Brockner) and at Olean (Eaton). They also are quite scarce through a large part of the region. Indicative of this is a report from Eaton at Olean that they arrived there a week late and only five pairs appeared, this representing 50% of the number of pairs nesting during his four years of observation. Blue Jays migrated along the south shore of Lake Erie in high numbers during the period. On Apr 19 at Lakeview 130 flew past in less than an hour (Andrle). On May 10 a total of 100 Blue Jays were observed along this shore (Brockner). On both occasions the wind was southerly, the previous night mostly clear and cool and the maximum temperature considerably higher than the day before. It is always interesting to compare weather conditions under such circumstances and especially to check the weather maps as often significant correlations and perhaps worthwhile deductions can be made. A Mockingbird in full song at Chestnut Ridge on May 15 (Bourne) leads to speculation as to whether it nested. The general scarcity of Bluebirds in the region continues and is a subject for discussion and concern. If such is the case in other regions there probably is a major factor involved.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Most species of warblers and vireos were few in number as were many other small land bird migrants. A Solitary Vireo on Apr 20 at Olean (Eaton) is one of the earlier dates for the species in the region as is a Yellow Warbler on Apr 23 at Gainsville (Smith). From reports of various observers it appears that "waves" occurred on May 11, 14, 15, and 17. The migration on May 17 seemed to be rather pronounced, 19 species of warblers being reported from Buffalo (Brockner) and 13 species at Niagara Falls (Heilborn). Even on these days, however, there were fewer than usual of each species and in general May produced a rather poor migration. A Kentucky Warbler in Buffalo May 17 (Nathan) is an interesting observation of a bird that is very rare in the region.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Common Grackles were present in above normal abundance during the period. On Apr 6 a flight of 8,200 Icterids, about half Redwinged Blackbirds, was observed along the south shore of Lake Erie (Brockner). A changing male Summer Tanager was present in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo from May 14-16 (Webster) and was well seen by many observers. Cardinals are very conspicuous this spring and seem to be more common than usual. Flocks of Evening Grosbeaks continued to frequent feeders during most of the period, the last individuals being reported at Gainsville May 21 (Smith). Both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were reported as being very low in numbers during the migration.

193 Woodward Avenue, Buffalo

---

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The first three weeks of April produced frustrating birding. There were no really warm days, and the wind direction was wrong much of the time. Most land birds were rather late in arriving and also were scarce except for short periods. The 20th brought the first good wave, when a few hawk flights developed and there was a good wave of small land birds which brought numbers of species which should have appeared a week or ten days previous. The last week of the month showed a good migration of water birds but still a retarded movement of land birds. The weekend of the Federation meeting (May 2-4) showed a fairly good number of birds present on Saturday, at least locally, against a background of inclement weather.

The next day showed little. The next weekend brought a good hawk flight on the 11th plus a good wave of land birds. On this date all the regular early and mid-season warblers were present in numbers along with the other early May migrants and a few early arrivals of the later species, such as Swainson's Thrush and Indigo Bunting. May 15 was apparently the peak day of the whole spring migration, large numbers of almost all species except a few of the very latest migrants being present. On this day one observer recorded twenty-four species of warblers. Large numbers of birds were present May 17, but on the 18th (the day of the spring census) there was a sharp falling off in numbers. The next weekend was rather barren, but the last weekend of the month showed a very good shorebird flight plus a good migration of late flycatchers and warblers.

Perhaps the outstanding records for this period were the Yellow-throated Warbler (*albilora*?) on April 20, three records of the Glossy Ibis, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Harris' Sparrow on May 11, the Eared Grebe on May 17-18 and the Snowy Egret on May 25.

**Loons — Ducks:** There was a good flight of both species of loons this spring, maximum counts being three hundred Common Loons and five hundred Red-throated Loons on Apr 19 on the east lake shore (Kemnitzer). The same observer also had an unprecedented count of **eleven hundred** Red-necked Grebes on Apr 4 in the same area. An Eared Grebe in full summer plumage was seen May 17-18 at Webster Park (Kemnitzers et al.). Pied-billed Grebes have seemed rather scarce this spring, perhaps due in part to the low water level. Three Double-crested Cormorants were seen Apr 20 at Hamlin Park and two were at Manitou May 10. These seem to be our only records this spring. After not being recorded in our area all of last year, one to four Common Egrets were recorded on dates ranging from Apr 25 to May 25 at Braddock's Bay (Listman et al.). One bird was seen at the Rotary Sunshine Camp pond May 1 (Barlow). A Snowy Egret was seen at Braddock's May 25 (Tanghe, Listman et al.). An adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen May 11 at Island Cottage woods (Tanghe). No Least Bitterns have been reported this year. A Glossy Ibis was reported Apr 19 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer, Listman), at Tryon Park May 18 (Miller) and May 22 at Island Cottage (McKinney). A Whistling Swan was reported Apr 20 at Buck Pond (Dobson), two birds were seen at Manitou May 11 (Listman), and another single bird was seen at Sandy Creek May 17 (Starling, Holland). Twelve thousand Canada Geese were seen at Hamlin Park and westward Apr 20 (Listman). From one to eight Common Brant were present at Braddock's from May 17 to 31. A banded Snow Goose was observed at the Irondequoit Bay outlet Apr 19 (Kemnitzer). Three birds of the same species were seen on the lake near Cowsucker Creek May 17 (O'Hara, Miller). Two Blue Geese were at Shore Acres Apr 26, and seven birds were with the Snow Geese May 17 near Cow-sucker Creek (O'Hara, Miller). Black Ducks seem sharply down in numbers in this area. No Gadwall or European Widgeon were reported during the period. Twenty-five Wood Duck were seen at Ling Road and Island Cottage Apr 27 (Tanghe, Dobson). Three Common Goldeneye were at Manitou May 27 (Listman). One hundred Old-squaw were seen off Sea Breeze May 17 (Kemnitzer) and eight White-winged Scoters were seen May 31 at Shore Acres by the same observer. Twenty-five Ruddy Ducks were seen along the east lake shore Apr 27 and four were seen at Cobb's Hill Lake Apr 19. A Common Merganser was seen May 18 at Manitou (Listman).

**Hawks — Owls:** Seven hundred fifty Sharp-shinned Hawks and one thousand Broad-winged Hawks on May 11 at the Hawk Lookout were the peak numbers of these two species. Ten Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at Sodus Bay Apr 5 and a pair is nesting in Genesee Valley Park (Schamke). Two late Rough-legged Hawks were seen May 18 at the Hawk Lookout. Seven Bald Eagles on May 11 at the Hawk Lookout was the high count of the season. Several other reports of single birds have been received. A Peregrine Falcon was seen May 11 at Island Cottage (Listman); two more birds of the same species were seen May 16 at Manitou by the same observer, and another was seen May 18 at the Hawk Lookout. A Pigeon Hawk was seen Apr 27 at Braddock's (Listman). Another bird of this species was seen May 18 at Webster Park and another at Flynn Road May 25, both by Tanghe.

A Ruffed Grouse was seen at Pultneyville May 18 (Kemnitzer et al). A Virginia Rail was reported at Round Pond May 4 (Federation trip), and several birds of this species were later reported. No reports of Soras have been received. A Black-bellied Plover seen at Manitou May 24 (Starling, Miller) is the only report received this year. Forty-six Ruddy Turnstones reported May 31 at Salmon Creek by Kemnitzer is a high count for this species. Six Upland Plover were reported Apr 29 at Manitou (Listman) and four were seen the same day at Avon (Haller). Thirty Greater Yellowlegs May 7 at Avon (Haller) and twenty Lesser Yellowlegs May 15 in the same place and by the same observer were high counts. Three Knots at Manitou May 30-31 (Tanghe et al) and one bird at the Irondequoit Bay outlet May 30 were the first records of this bird which is not at all common in this area in the spring. A flock of thirty-six Pectoral Sandpipers was seen Apr 19 at the back of Buck Pond (Starling, Miller). Two White-rumped Sandpipers were seen May 23 at Salmon Creek (Listman). Fifty Dunlin at Manitou May 30 (Listman) and seventy-five of the same species May 30 at Buck Pond (Moons) were high counts. One Short-billed Dowitcher on the two dates of Apr 27 and May 17 at Manitou (Listman) and another May 24 at Buck Pond (Starling, Miller) constitute our only records this spring. Until about three years ago this bird was almost unheard of as a spring migrant in our area. Then for about two years it occurred in some numbers as a spring migrant. Is it now returning to its former status? Twenty-six Sanderlings on May 30 at the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Kemnitzer) is a very high spring count for this species which usually is far from common at this season. No Phalaropes were reported. A Glaucous Gull was reported Apr 26 and May 10 at Braddock's Bay and an Iceland Gull was reported from the same place Apr 14 and May 22. A Great Black-tailed Gull was seen at Manitou May 25 (Listman) and a Little Gull was seen at Braddock's Bay May 15 by the same observer. Twenty Caspian Tern on Apr 21 at Braddock's (Listman) is a good spring count of this species.

A Barn Owl was seen Apr 19 in a barn in Charlotte (Dobson). It was reported to have spent most of the winter there. A few days later it was shot by irresponsible youths living in the vicinity. Another bird of this species was heard at Scottsville Apr 28 (Brown). A Barred Owl was seen and heard May 24 in Bergen Swamp (McKinney, Barlow). A Long-eared Owl was reported west of Manitou May 17. No Saw-Whet Owls were reported during the period.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** A Pileated Woodpecker was reported May 4 on Hogan Point Road east of Braddock's (Kemnitzer). A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers have returned to their nesting area at Manitou, and another pair seems to be ready to nest at Island Cottage. This species seems to be increasing to some extent along the lake shore. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, which were scarce last spring, appeared in much larger numbers this year, with six birds being seen Apr 20. Ten Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen May 28 around Manitou (Listman) and eight were seen in the same general area May 31. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen May 16 in the Hawk Lookout woods (Listman) and two of this species were seen west of Manitou May 31 (Listman, O'Hara, Miller). Two thousand Blue Jays were seen migrating at Manitou May 16 (Listman). A Tufted Titmouse was seen at Forest Lawn May 18 (Kemnitzer) in a location where it has already nested. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was found feeding young in Bergen Swamp May 24 (McKinney). A Winter Wren was singing in Bergen Swamp May 24 (McKinney). A Carolina Wren was reported May 18 at Forest Lawn (Kemnitzer). Apparently a few birds at least of this species were lucky enough to find feeders during the severe winter just past, as it does not seem possible that a rather delicate, ground-feeding bird such as this could survive in a natural state. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported May 18 (Jones et al) and two were reported May 30 near Buck Pond (McKinney). Mockingbirds, the few wintering birds having undoubtedly been wiped out last winter, have reappeared as single individuals this spring, the records being as follows: near Kendall Apr 20, on Pinnacle Hill May, in Greece May 9-11, and east of Shore Acres May 18. Ten Brown Thrashers were seen west of Durand May 10 (Starling, Miller). Swainson's Thrushes seemed somewhat down in numbers this spring, as did Hermit Thrushes and Bluebirds. Four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported from White Haven May 18 (Jones). Water Pipits, which had been completely missing earlier in the spring, appeared in fair numbers in May, the largest count being one hundred birds May 10 around Braddock's (Starling, Miller). Two hundred Cedar Waxwings were reported from Highland Park May 2 (Starling).. A late Northern Shrike was seen Apr 12 southeast of Braddock's (Starling, Miller).

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Philadelphia Vireo was seen May 31 at Manitou (Listman). Only about six species of warblers were present at the end of April. The first weekend in May showed a majority of the earlier warblers present, but except for Myrtles and possibly Palms they were in very small numbers. The second weekend in May saw all the regular early and mid-season warblers present in good numbers and by May 15 all the regular warblers, except possibly the Blackpoll, were at least present. Single Blue-winged Warblers were reported May 13 at Avon (Haller), at Mendon Ponds May 24 (Rising, Zeitler), and at Bergen Swamp May 24 (McKinney). A Brewster's Warbler was reported May 17 at Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary (McKinney). The only spring report of the Orange-crowned Warbler was of a single bird May 15 in the Hawk Lookout woods (Listman). Five Cape May Warblers were seen May 11 at Durand (Miller). A Yellow-throated Warbler (*albilaria* ?) was seen Apr 20-21 on Edgewater Lane in Irondequoit (Moons, Leubner). A Prairie Warbler in Durand May 13 (G. O. S. hike) on a very poor warbler day was our only record for this species this spring. The Louisiana Waterthrush was recorded near Avon May 1 (Haller). A Connecticut Warbler was seen at the Island Cottage woods May 15 (Dobson) and another was seen at Manitou May 28 (Listman). A bird heard but not seen in the same location May 30 (McKinney) was probably but not positively this species. The Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from Leroy May 11 (Haller) and from Manitou May 18 (Listman et al) and May 25 (Taylor et al). A bird heard but not seen at Island Cottage Woods May 30 (McKinney) was probably this species.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The Western Meadowlark was reported from Spencerport May 22-26 (Listman) and from Webster May 30-31 (Kemnitzers). A remarkable flight of six hundred fifty Baltimore Orioles flying west along the east lake shore was seen May 17 (McNett, Sunderlin). Evening Grosbeaks continued in numbers until the last two weeks of the period, our last record being of a single bird May 30 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer). Pine Siskins, which had not been previously recorded this year, occurred during the last three weeks of May in flocks of up to one hundred birds. They were still present in some numbers up to the very end of the month. No Crossbills of either species was reported. A late Slate-colored Junco was seen in the Island Cottage woods May 31. A Harris' Sparrow was carefully observed in the Island Cottage woods May 11 by the Barlows. White-crowned Sparrows were rather late in arriving but then occurred in at least normal numbers. The pensive song of the White-throated Sparrow seemed somewhat less in evidence this spring than in some years. There seemed to be more than the normal number of reports of Lincoln's Sparrows, the largest number reported in a day being eight on May 15 at Manitou (Listman).

61 Richland Street, Rochester 9

---

### REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

It was generally a cold, wet, frosty spring. The snow cover lingered until late in April in some areas (until April 20 in front of the Sapsucker Woods Laboratory), and the Hornell Reservoir basin was ice-locked until April 15. Most observers reported that migration was late and scanty. At Geneva, Walker heard migrants passing over at night, but few seemed to drop in to feed by day in that area. Mrs. Carter reports that weather conditions around Avoca improved at nesting time and the early nesters were having success. At Ithaca, two peak days were noted: May 11 and 12 were warm, following a period of cold rain, and birds poured in. May 19 was another good day.

It was increasingly obvious that those species which had wintered in the southern states suffered considerable losses in numbers. Robins, Hermit Thrushes, Phoebe, Chipping Sparrows and Bluebirds, for example, were scarce. Those which went to Central or South America escaped our severe winter, although some early migrants suffered from the lingering cold and late blizzards when they reached the mid-Atlantic states.

**Loons — Ducks:** About 20 Common Loons were spotted on the west side of Cayuga on Apr 12 (I. Nisbet), and several individuals could be seen on the Hornell Reservoir basin from Apr 22 (after the ice went out) until mid-May (Groesbeck). A good find was a Red-throated Loon on the Branchport Basin on May 3 (Spiker). The only regional report of a Red-necked Grebe was of one off Aurora on Cayuga on Apr 5 (Nisbet). Horned Grebes were spotted in good numbers early in April on Cayuga — Nisbet seeing about 60 from Aurora to Levanna on Apr 5, and Mrs. A. Robinson seeing a total of 100 on Apr 6. Two Double-crested Cormorants were at Montezuma on May 11 (Walker). Great Blue Herons were in normal numbers in part of the region, slightly below normal in other sections. The first Common Egret appeared at Montezuma Refuge on Apr 16. Black-crowned Night Herons seemed rather scarce. The Least Bittern was reported at the Refuge on May 21 (V. Dewey). A Glossy Ibis, interestingly enough, turned up at the Refuge on Apr 25, the same date as a year ago, and again it was last seen on May 4, but it was not noted consistently in the period between these dates.

Two Whistling Swans were seen at Elmira on May 17, and one immature at the Penn Yan Marsh on May 24 (Guthrie). Few Canada Geese stopped at Hornell, probably because of the ice lingering so long. On Cayuga the numbers were large; on Apr 5 Ian Nisbet found by a careful count 29,000, plus or minus 2,000, and on May 4 there were still 6,000, with another 800 at Montezuma. No Brant reports this spring. A new bird for the Finger Lakes is the White-fronted Goose, carefully observed at Montezuma on Apr 20 by David Peakall of Alfred, who is well acquainted with the species in Europe (validation report filed). Two Snow Geese were seen by Nisbet near Lake Ridge on Apr 5, and two immatures spent some time at the Refuge in mid-May, according to the refuge personnel. A Blue Goose was seen near Levanna on Apr 5, and one at Montezuma on May 4 (Nisbet).

There were 26 American Widgeon at the south end of Seneca Lake the last week in March (A. Robinson). A European Widgeon was seen at Montezuma from the end of March until Apr 10. Green-winged Teal were absent this year from Elmira and Keuka. A lone Blue-winged Teal spent a few days just off Stewart Park in Ithaca early in May. No Wood Ducks were found at Hornell this year. A female with 11 young was seen May 28 at Avoca (Carter), and at least two pairs are nesting in Sapsucker Woods and more nearby, since seven females were seen at the feeding area at the same time. Groesbeck reports that the only duck in normal numbers at Hornell this spring was the Bufflehead. There were fewer Oldsquaws than usual at Keuka. There was good migration of this species on Seneca the last week in April (L. Ward); one was seen on May 17 at Elmira, and an injured bird spent the period from Apr 23 to May 10 on a pond at Avoca (Carter), the first record on the valley waters there. Two White-winged Scoters were seen on the Chemung River on May 16 (Al Fudge), and there were 25 on Seneca Lake the last week in April (Ward). All Mergansers seemed down in numbers.

Montezuma Refuge personnel report the following peak numbers of waterfowl for the month of April (except where otherwise noted, this peak was reached the first week of April): Canada Geese 7,000; Mallards 1,000; Blacks 2,300; Gadwalls 200 (Apr 27 - May 3); American Widgeon 3,300; Pintails 2,500; Green-winged Teal 100 (Apr 28 - May 3); Blue Winged Teal 300 (Apr 27 - May 3); Shoveler 100 (Apr 27 - May 3); Wood Duck 100 (Apr 27 - May 3); Ring-necked Ducks 1,200 (Apr 6 - 12); Greater Scaup 100; Common Goldeneyes 200; Buffleheads 100; and Coot 200 (Apr 27 - May 3).

**Hawks — Owls:** All hawks were again scarce at Avoca (Carter). Turkey Vultures were reported on Apr 6 at Montezuma (Walker) and on Apr 18 at Elmira (Mann, Smith). A Goshawk was seen on Apr 13 and on May 17 at Elmira, but no Sharp-shins or Cooper's there this spring, and these seem scarce everywhere. A Red-tailed Hawk was seen carrying nesting material into Sapsucker Woods in early April, but apparently nothing came of it — perhaps the resident Red-shoulders drove them out. The latter, however, were not as much in evidence as in some years when they nested close to the Laboratory at the Sanctuary. Six Broad-winged Hawks were seen over Stewart Park on Apr 24 (Nisbet), and the species was seen at Hornell on May 8 and at Elmira on May 10. Ward noted Broad-wing migration over Geneva on May 18. While the Bald Eagles have appeared to be nesting in one of the old nests visible from the entrance to the Storage Pond dike, there is no evidence of young having been brought off. The Marsh Hawks did not return to the field across from the Laboratory of Ornithology Building at Sapsucker Woods this year, but they were seen

a mile north regularly. Ospreys seemed somewhat more numerous than usual, and one remained around Etna most of May. K. Fudge saw seven at Elmira on May 4, and three were seen on May 8 at Hornell (Groesbeck). A Pigeon Hawk eating small prey in a tree was seen at Watkins Glen on May 6 (A. Robinson).

Pheasants were scarce in some part of the region, probably as a result of the severe winter. Both Virginia and Sora Rails were scarce at Hornell, and no Soras were found at Keuka (Guthrie). Killdeer were also scarce at Keuka, but young Killdeer were found fairly early in the Ithaca region. Nisbet reported Whimbrels overhead the night of May 27. Upland Plovers returned to the usual station east of Dryden (Kelsey) and one was seen on May 30 near Elmira (K. Fudge). High water everywhere resulted in very few shorebird reports throughout the region. Bonaparte's Gulls were not as abundant as some years on Cayuga, and none appeared at Keuka this year. By May 1 Common Terns were nesting at Montezuma (L. Smith). Black Terns were fewer than usual at Elmira, but there were 200 at Montezuma on May 4 (Nisbet). Caspian Terns were seen at Montezuma on Apr 26 (J. Morse).

Mourning Doves were in good numbers throughout the region. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were scarce in some areas, abundant around Waterloo. Black-bills were in normal numbers. Owls seemed scarce. The Great Horned did not nest at Stewart Park at Ithaca this year; there were no Long-ears at the usual roost in Elmira, and Screech Owls seemed not too common.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** There were several records of Whip-poor-wills at Geneva (Ward). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were very scarce throughout the region. Many have told me they have had none in their gardens this year, and mine at Etna were late in arriving. Fewer Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, although one hung around Stewart Park in Ithaca from Apr 25 to May 15, and one was found near Arthur Lane's in Sapsucker Woods but did not stay to nest. Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to increase around Elmira, but only one has been seen near Ithaca, and that in the Forest Home section. None was at Hornell this year. The species was seen at Montezuma on May 11, and a pair nested for the second year in Moravia (Mrs. K. Ray). At Avoca both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were scarce.

Phoebe, many of which winter in the southern states, were among those whose numbers were reduced this winter and were scarce throughout the region. Least Flycatchers and Pewees were somewhat lower in numbers this year. Several reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers: one at Geneva on May 18; one at Avoca on May 23, and one at Breesport on May 25. Horned Larks seemed able to cope with the bad spring and were in normal numbers. They were seen feeding young at Hedgeville on May 15 (Groesbeck). Tree Swallows were scarcer at Avoca and several other localities, but are occupying most of the boxes on the pond at Sapsucker Woods. Ian Nisbet reported a flock of approximately 3,000 swallows at Montezuma on May 4, of which about 40% were Rough-wings, 20% Barns and 20% Trees. Rough-wings, however, were scarcer this year at Avoca. Cliff Swallows started to nest on a barn near Avoca (Carter), but the nests were torn down by the owner. A Purple Martin house was erected this spring on the pond in Sapsucker Woods and has been adopted by several pairs. A mile to the west another house was several pairs, also for the first year.

Tufted Titmice are continuing their northward spread. One pair has remained at Keuka and is probably nesting; one was seen on the Geneva census, May 18, and there are two pairs in Stewart Park in Ithaca. One has appeared several times in Etna. Although Red-breasted Nuthatches were common in parts of the region in winter, there was no migration noticed, although L. Helfer reported two on May 19 at Watkins Glen. House Wrens were scarce everywhere. Few Winter Wren reports; one was singing at Star Stanton Hill on May 27, south of Dryden (Kelsey). Oddly enough the Long-billed Marsh Wren was not reported on the census at Ithaca, May 18, although the Short-billed was found at Summit Ridge. The latter species has not been reported from the Refuge, Avoca or Elmira. Catbirds were in normal numbers. Twenty-five of them were counted by Nisbet at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on May 12. Robins seemed quite scarce at first, but picked up in normal numbers in most parts of the region. Guthrie reported picking up six dead Robins on the Keuka campus, evidently victims of elm tree spraying. The other thrushes were all down in numbers. Migration of Wood Thrushes was noted on May 11, when 15 were counted at Stewart Park (Nisbet), but Sapsucker Woods had fewer Wood

Thrushes and no Hermit Thrushes this year. Bluebirds seem hardest hit of all. Hartshorne reports that of 30 boxes occupied last year in his studies, only 10 have Bluebird families this year, and this reduction seems to hold everywhere. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were more numerous this year. A pair is nesting near Dryden, and Nisbet reported 12 individuals in Stewart Park on May 1, 20 on May 12, and 9 on May 25. Both species of Kinglets were scarce this year, and there were almost no reports of Pipits. The Cornell campus was flooded with Cedar Waxwings on May 26, and they seemed quite common everywhere.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Vireos were somewhat down in numbers. There were no Solitary Vireos around Keuka and not many were noted at Ithaca. Red-eyed and Yellow-throated both seemed somewhat scarce at Ithaca, and the Red-eyed was scarce at Avoca. Philadelphias were not noted in migration, but often aren't.

A Prothonotary Warbler spent about five days in the first week of May on the woodsy edge of Stewart Park. The Worm-eating Warbler has returned to Mrs. York's hillside at Elmira, and of interest too is the report of this species at Geneva on May 18. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers have increased in numbers around Ithaca, and the Blue-winged was seen in Friend-Potter's Woods near Keuka. Of even greater interest is the appearance in several localities of Brewster's, and one report of Lawrence's. The latter was seen near Elmira on May 17 by Wilifred Howard. Brewster's was seen by Al Fudge at Sullivan's monument, Elmira, on May 24; there were two unconfirmed reports of this bird near Keuka; Bill Dilger saw one in Michigan Hollow on May 18, and one was collected by Les Short at Monkey Run, northeast of Ithaca. Three Orange-crowned Warblers were counted at Geneva on the census May 18 (Ward), and Nashvilles were abundant at Geneva, scarce at Avoca. There did not seem to be as many Yellow Warblers around as in most years. Cape Mays were practically absent at Hornell and Avoca. Myrtles were scarce at Avoca, Watkins Glen and Ithaca. Black-throated Greens were abundant at Geneva, scarce at Avoca, and Blackburnians were scarce at both Avoca and Elmira. At least two pairs of Ceruleans were still present at Stewart Park on May 25 and are probably nesting there. The Mourning Warbler spent about a week at Stewart Park, Ithaca (May 18-25). One was seen May 30 and later at Mary Smith's near Elmira; one was singing on Star Stanton Hill near Dryden on May 27, and others were noted at eight different locations near Avoca. A Hooded Warbler, often missed, was seen in Stewart Park on May 13 (M. Ficken) and another on May 17 was seen just east of Ithaca along Cascadilla Creek (Leighton). Redstarts seemed in good numbers; 40 were counted in Stewart Park on May 12 (Nisbet) and 20 on May 19.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks seemed rather scarce around Ithaca, more abundant at Geneva. Meadowlarks were in good numbers all over the region, and Redwings were increasingly abundant. Baltimore Orioles were fairly abundant (20 were counted on May 12 at Stewart Park). Rusty Blackbirds were not as common this year in migration, and again bypassed Hornell. Grackles and Cowbirds were everywhere. All observers spoke of the large number of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this year. At Watkins Glen Tanagers poured through on May 15 and 16. Indigo Buntings also came through in good numbers and were particularly abundant at Burdett around May 20. Walker found them abundant at Waterloo, too.

Evening Grosbeaks lingered on, with a spurt of new individuals coming through in early May. At several locations single females have been reported as remaining into June, but aside from these, last dates have been reported as follows: Avoca, May 17; Corning, May 28; Hornell, May 26; Etna, May 25; Sapsucker Woods, May 21; and Watkins Glen, May 15. Mrs. George Richardson at Corning noted courtship in this species in a flock of 100 on May 16.

Purple Finches were scarce at Keuka, in normal numbers at Hornell and Ithaca. Pine Siskins were found in Stewart Park on May 18 and for ten days thereafter. Henslow's, Vesper and Chipping Sparrows were late and scarce at Keuka, and Henslow's is scarce or absent at Avoca. White-crowned Sparrows were more abundant than White-throats (which were actually scarce in many areas) everywhere except Hornell. At Avoca White-crown migration reached its peak on May 14 and 15, while at Ithaca the species poured in on May 15. Fox Sparrows were again very scarce. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen in late May at Elmira by Mary Smith. Song Sparrows seemed somewhat down in numbers.

*Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca*

## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Spring this year has been wet, cool and slow.. Precipitation during April was the third heaviest on record for that month. The last snowfall came April 12 and there were still traces of snow on the ground until April 17. Although the total precipitation in April was high, there were only eleven rainy days divided into three or four day periods so that the total of sunshine hours and the average temperature were also higher than normal, mainly because of the unseasonably warm weather during the third week of the month. May was decidedly cool on the average, although the last frost was quite early, May 10. Precipitation was actually below normal, but it came in frequent light rains so that it seemed to be a wet month.

Although the spring was cool and slow in some respects, the warm spell in the third week of April, mentioned earlier, put the foliage substantially ahead. The well developed leaves combined with the somewhat late arrival of many song birds that was noted by all observers made migration watching less than ideal. There was also a substantial decrease in the number of song birds of several species reported, a larger decrease than can be explained on the basis of poor visibility. Especially noticeable was the decrease in Phoebe's, Black and White Warblers and Myrtle Warblers.

**Loons — Ducks:** After six years without a Common Loon report from the Triple Cities area two were found on the same day, Apr 12, one at Whitney Point (Sheffields) and the other on Lily Lake in Chenango Valley State Park, over ten miles away (Goetz). There were later reports from Norwich and Guilford Lake (Whites), but the last report was from Whitney Point May 10 (Beaver). Three Red-necked Grebes, an unusual species here, were on Mead's Pond just north of Norwich Apr 13 (Whites). There were quite a few Horned Grebes reported from the Triple Cities and Norwich areas, the last from Norwich May 4 (Whites). Our earliest Green Heron was at Unadilla May 3 (Wisner). Some Black-crowned Night Herons spent enough time around a pond in the Greene area to raise hopes they were breeding in the area (Maxon), but they seem to have moved on. The colony at Willow Point, across the river from Johnson City, seems to have been deserted. A number of visits by several different observers all through the spring failed to turn up any of the birds. Our first American Bittern was at Willow Point May 11 (Sheffields).

A larger than normal number of Canada Geese have been migrating over the Triple Cities area, particularly from Apr 14 to May 1 (Naturalists' Club). On Apr 5 over 75 Mallards were at Whitney Point Dam (Sheffields). Sixty Mallards and 200 Black Ducks were near Binghamton May 1 (Marsi). A Mallard nest with ten eggs was found near Deposit May 16 (Wilson). Our first and last Pintails were ten at Whitney Point Dam Apr 5. Green-winged Teal were first seen Apr 4 at Whitney Point and were last seen Apr 20 at Boland's Marsh (Sheffields). The first Blue-wings were west of Endicott Apr 13 (Sheffields, Washburns). Neither teal was very common. American Widgeons were around until Apr 13. Ring-necked Ducks were still at Tarbell's Pond at Smithville Flats in Chenango County at the end of May. They raised a brood there last year (Maxon). Except for one straggler that was at Bainbridge May 18 (E. J. Smith) Canvasbacks were gone after Apr 5. Nine Lesser Scaup at Whitney Point Apr 12 (Sheffields) were the only ones reported. Our latest Common Goldeneyes were at Deposit Apr 3 (Wilson) and our last Buffleheads at St. John's Pond, north of Binghamton, Apr 30 (Sheffields). An Oldsquaw was still in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will). A Ruddy Duck, another infrequently seen bird in this area, was at Norwich Apr 30, May 3 and May 7 (Whites). A Common Merganser was still in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will), and the next latest were two at Unadilla Apr 13 (Wisner). A Red-breasted Merganser was reported from Whitney Point Apr 3 (Beaver).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures continue to increase and spread. One was at Bainbridge Apr 19 (E. J. Smith) and another was near Harpursville May 30 (Nodecker). There were also two reports from the Triple Cities area, but the most surprising report was of 38 seen at the same time at Hancock May 4 (Wilson). Our

earliest Broad-winged Hawk was at Norwich May 4 (Whites). They weren't very common and were last seen May 18 at Oneonta and Binghamton. An Osprey at Oxford Apr 8 (Stratton) was our first and two at the same place May 12 (Stratton) were our last.

Another 750 Bobwhite were released in Broome County by the Broome County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Apr 11. The birds were bought with money appropriated by the Broome County Board of Supervisors. There were several reports of Turkeys around Oquaga Lake (Wilson). Two Virginia Rails and one Sora were found east of Otego, in Delaware County, May 18 (Wisner) but were otherwise unreported. No Common Gallinules or Coots at all. An adult Killdeer with four young chicks were seen at Vestal May 18 (Doren). The only Common Snipe reported were twelve at Whitney Point May 8 (Beaver). Upland Plover have been found in two different spots near Greene so far this year (Maxon). Our first Spotted Sandpipers were two near Endicott Apr 28 (Bennett, Bemont). No Solitary Sandpipers were reported until May 18 when one was seen at Binghamton and another east of Otego (Wisner). Five or more Greater Yellowlegs were at Whitney Point May 6 (Beaver) and one Lesser Yellowlegs was at Boland's Marsh May 7 (Bemont). Both species were at Whitney Point May 10 (Beaver), but these are the only reports received. Least Sandpipers were in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will) and during the last week of May Least and Baird's Sandpipers and at least one Dowitcher were seen in the Greene area (Maxon).

A Great-backed Gull was seen several times around Greene during May and in the same area Bonaparte's Gulls seemed more common than usual (Maxon). Neither species was reported anywhere else in the region. A last flock of Herring Gulls was at Binghamton May 21 (Fargo). No Black Terns were reported anywhere in the region. Our first Yellow-billed Cuckoo was near Binghamton May 11 (Marsi) and our first Blackbill was at the same place May 14 (Bemont). The latter species was much the more common of the two.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A Whip-poor-will was found in the Oneonta area May 18 (Will). Nighthawks first appeared in the Triple Cities May 16 (Snow). They were also reported from Hancock, Norwich and Oneonta before the period was over. A flock of 16 Chimney Swifts was counted over Binghamton Apr 24 and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at the same place May 14 (Sheffields). The first Flicker migrants were at Whitney Point Apr 5 (Sheffields). A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen behind the public library at Deposit May 23 (Wilson). No other reports. The first Sapsucker reported was at Maine Apr 1 (Beaver). A Hairy Woodpecker at Ludlow Lake near Greene has literally ruined one side of a club house by drilling hundreds of holes through the asbestos shingles and the sheathing. That side of the building will have to be completely reshingled (Maxon).

Our first Kingbird was at Norwich May 4 (Whites). They have been none too common since. Our earliest Crested Flycatchers were at Newark Valley (Dean) and Norwich (Whites) May 11. No Phoebes until Apr 4 when one was near Vestal (Washburns). In some areas they were considerably later and several areas reported them to be scarce. Our only Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were two at Sherbourne (Whites) and one near Choconut Center, north of Johnson City, all May 18 (Sheffields). Alder Flycatchers arrived in the Triple Cities area May 23 (Bemont), a Otego May 25 (Wisner) and at Norwich May 30 (Whites). Least Flycatchers arrived May 4 at both Unadilla (Wisner) and Binghamton (Sheffields) and have been rather scarce. The first Wood Pewee was at Deposit May 10 (Wilson), but they were not found at Unadilla or around Binghamton until May 17. The first Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared near Choconut Center May 15 (Sheffields). They were also reported from Deposit and Norwich. Northern Horned Larks were seen at Newark Valley May 11 (Dean). No Tree Swallows were reported until Apr 4 when they were seen at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). Bank Swallows were at Boland's Marsh Apr 20 (Sheffields) and Rough-winged Swallows were at Deposit Apr 25 (Wilson). On Apr 11, a rather cold day, a very cold looking Barn Swallow was seen perched on a wire, with its feathers fluffed up as much as possible, near Endwell (Bemont) Cliff Swallows were at Maine Apr 26 (Beaver). A previously unreported colony was found between Choconut Center and St. John's Pond (Sheffields). The birds had not returned to the colony at Newark Valley by the end of the period (Dean). Purple Martins were back at their colony on Upper Front St., north of Binghamton, Apr 18 (Bemont). A previously unreported colony was found at Union Center, north of Endicott, and a newly erected Martin house one mile south of Maine was occupied this spring (Beaver).

A large number of apparently migrating Blue Jays was seen May 17 near Endwell (Washburns). A Red-breasted Nuthatch near Endicott May 6 (Bemont) was our first. At Norwich, where they apparently bred last year, one was still present May 21 (Whites). No Brown Creepers after the one at Ely Park, in Binghamton, May 7 (Bemont). A House Wren was at Deposit Apr 25 (Wilson), but nowhere else until May 1. A few Carolina Wrens survived the hard winter around Willow Point, but they are missing from many of the stations where they were seen last fall. Catbirds were at Endicott May 6 (Bemont) and Brown Thrashers were at Choconut Center Apr 17 (Sheffields). A Wood Thrush was at Endicott May 1 (Bennett). A Hermit Thrush was at Unadilla Apr 24 (Wisner). They have been quite uncommon around the Triple Cities. A spot near Choconut Center where a singing male can usually be found during the nesting season has produced none so far this year. Two Swainson's Thrushes were at Ely Park May 17 (Sheffields) and our first Veery was at Endicott Apr 29 (Bennett). There has been a considerable drop in Bluebird numbers since last year. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Choconut Center May 4 (Sheffields) and the first one seen in the Deposit area for several years was there May 5 (Wilson). Golden-crowned Kinglets were gone after Apr 20. Ruby-crowns arrived at Deposit Apr 19 (Wilson) and were last reported at Oneonta May 18 (Will).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireos arrived at Binghamton May 9 (Marsi). Our first Solitary Vireo was at Deposit Apr 26 (Wilson) and our last at Ely Park May 11 (Sheffields). They were never common. Red-eyed Vireos arrived at Maine May 9 (Beaver). Philadelphia Vireos were found at Oneonta May 18 (Will) and six or seven were seen and heard at Maine May 31 (Beaver). A Warbling Vireo was at Newark Valley May 4 (Dean). They were rather scarce at Binghamton and Deposit.

Black and White Warblers were first seen at Deposit Apr 23 (Wilson). At Binghamton they were much less common than usual. A Worm-eating Warbler was heard singing at IBM Glen, near Endwell, May 17 (Marsi) and again May 25 (Bemont). Our first Golden-winged Warbler was near Binghamton May 9 (Bemont). They still seem to be increasing in the Triple Cities area. A Blue-winged Warbler was found in almost exactly the same spot it spent the breeding season last year. On May 25 four different Brewster's Warblers were found on the same hillside near Choconut Center (M. Sheffield, Bemont). Tennessee Warblers were found at Endwell May 12 (Bemont) and were quite common until the last one was found at Unadilla May 29 (Wisner). An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Norwich May 28 (Whites). Nashville's arrived at Unadilla May 3 (Wisner). Four Parula reports, all from the Binghamton area: the first May 13 and the last May 22 (Sheffields). Yellow Warblers arrived May 1 at both Newark Valley (Dean) and Binghamton (TC). In both the Triple Cities and Unadilla areas they have been abundant. Our first Magnolia was at IBM Glen May 10 (NC). They have been less common than last year. Cape Mays arrived May 11 at Binghamton (Sheffields) and were scarce. They were last seen at Oneonta May 18 (Will). May 11 brought Black-throated Blue Warblers to both Norwich (Whites) and Binghamton. They, too, were scarce. The real surprise was the scarcity of Myrtle Warblers in most areas. One good wave went through Binghamton May 9 (Marsi) but the rest of the time they were rather hard to find. The Norwich area was apparently an exception to this and they were more plentiful there than last year (Whites). The Black-throated Green story was very similar, even to the one good wave May 9 (Marsi). One Cerulean Warbler was reported at Newark Valley May 17 (Dean). Blackburnians were at Endicott May 1 (Bennett) and Chestnut-sides at Choconut Center May 6 (Sheffields). A good number of Bay-breasted Warblers went through both the Triple Cities and Norwich areas between May 14 and May 21, but the only other area to report them was Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). Blackpoll Warblers arrived at Binghamton May 18 (NC) and were fairly plentiful the rest of the month. They were also found at Norwich, Deposit and Newark Valley. No Pine or Palm Warblers were reported but on May 6 two Prairie Warblers were found at Glendale, just west of Endicott. One of them was caught in a mist net and banded (Bemont). On May 18 another one was found near Kattelville, across the river from Chenango Valley State Park (Bemont), and on May 24 still another was found at Ely Park (Sheffields, Whites). To our knowledge, these are the first records of this species in Broome Co., but with known breeding areas north and east of here it should be no surprise to find that they migrate through here occasionally. Ovenbirds arrived May 3 at both Unadilla and Binghamton. The first Northern Waterthrush was reported May 4 from Norwich (Whites)

and Apr 20 brought the first Louisiana Waterthrush reports from both Binghamton and Deposit. They were also reported from Sherbourne and Unadilla. A Mourning Warbler was found at Unadilla May 20 (Wisner) and another returned to Norwich May 25 (Whites). Our first Yellow-throat was at Newark Valley May 3 (Dean) and Yellow-breasted Chats returned to the Binghamton area May 16 (Bemont). Our first Wilson's Warbler was at Newark Valley May 16 (Dean) and our last at Choconut Center May 30 (Sheffields). Their numbers were at about the same relatively high level attained last year around Binghamton. A Canada Warbler at Norwich May 3 was our first (Whites). A Redstart was reported from Newark Valley Apr 26 (Dean), but there were no more until May 1. At Deposit they seemed unusually plentiful (Wilson).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** There were two unusually early Bobolink reports, one at Newark Valley Apr 26 (Dean) and another at Ely Park Apr 27 (Sheffields). No more until May 6. Baltimore Orioles were first seen at Maine May 5 (Beaver) Three Rusty Blackbirds were at Norwich Apr 6 (Whites). There were only a few others reported, the last May 8, at Binghamton (Marsi). Scarlet Tanagers were first reported at Newark Valley May 11 (Dean). At Unadilla at least, they were quite plentiful (Wisner).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Endwell May 7 (Bemont) and an Indigo Bunting came to a feeder near Unadilla May 3 to May 5 (Wisner). The last of the Evening Grosbeaks were three at Deposit May 25 (Wilson). Their departure brought sighs of relief in several areas. There were quite a few reports of Purple Finches between the first ones at Deposit Apr 20 (Wilson) and May 18. Two Pin Siskin reports: three at Choconut Center May 11 (Sheffields) and some at Newark Valley May 24 (Dean). Three Redpolls at Choconut Center Apr 6 (Sheffields) were the only ones reported. The first Towhee was at Choconut Center Apr 20 (Sheffields).

Savannah Sparrows were at Whitney Point Apr 5 (Sheffields). Our first Grasshopper Sparrows were at Choconut Center May 4 and our first Henslow's Sparrows were at the same place Apr 20 (Sheffields). The latter species seems to have been quite plentiful in the Triple Cities and Greene areas. Three Vesper Sparrows at Whitney Point May 5 (Sheffields) were our first. Slate-colored Juncos were around until May 18 in both the Binghamton and Oneonta areas. There were no Tree Sparrows reported after Apr 20. Chipping Sparrows arrived at Deposit Apr 22 (Wilson) and Field Sparrows arrived at both Deposit (Wilson) and Binghamton (Marsi) Apr 17. Our first White-crowned Sparrow was at Newark Valley May 1 (Dean). At Binghamton they were fairly plentiful, but at Deposit and Unadilla they were scarce. A White-throated Sparrow at Bainbridge Apr 17 (E. J. Smith) was our first. In the Greene area where they bred last year they were still around at the end of the period (Maxon). They were not especially common anywhere. Fox Sparrows were first seen at Choconut Center Apr 4 (Sheffields) and were seen in the Triple Cities area until Apr 20. The only other area where they were reported was Oxford. A total of five Lincoln's Sparrows, four of which were banded, was recorded in the Triple Cities area, the first May 16 and the last May 25 (Bemont, Sheffields). Our first Swamp Sparrow was at Willow Point Apr 18 (Marsi).

710 University Avenue, Endwell

---

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

April weatherwise, although chronically cold, was not an impressive month and no striking variations from the norm stayed for long. Birdwise it was a long string of disappointments, e. g., very poor loon and grebe flight, early departure of migrant ducks and geese, few good hawk flights (because of unfavorable conditions), and a generally sluggish migration. The May migration continued the slowness of the April flight, particularly in the cold, wet days of May 2-10, but was relieved by a few good warbler waves between May 9 and 21 and excellent numbers of the more colorful migrants — Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, Evening and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The abrupt fall-off of migrants in the last week of May and the poor shore-

bird flight at Sandy Pond added two more smudges to a distinctly gray season.

Marked scarcity to almost complete absence was the rule in certain migrants (Fox Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, Solitary Vireo) and some summer residents (House Wren, Tree Swallow, Robin, Bluebird, Phoebe). The paucity of waterfowl, shorebirds, and gulls along Lake Ontario may be correlated with the very low water levels and the scarcity of food there.

Good sightings for the season include Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Oregon Junco, and three Golden Eagle reports.

**Loons — Ducks:** Without question, the lightest spring loon and grebe flight in ten years; maximum number of Common Loons was 15, Apr 27, near Texas and of Horned Grebes, 20; only one Red-necked Grebe reported, May 1, Selkirk Shores State Park. Two winter-plumaged Common Loons on May 28, Sandy Pond, are probably summering birds.

Common Egret: first report is Apr 26, two, Howland's Island Game Management Area. Snowy Egret: an adult of this rare visitant was seen May 18, feeding in the shallows of Sage Creek near Texas (Spofford). Least Bittern: a high of ten (calling), May 18, at Clay Swamp. Glossy Ibis: an adult seen May 17 near East Syracuse (Scheider) is the second spring record in as many years for the region.

Canada Goose: high of 5,500 on Apr 19, Beaver Lake GMA, near Baldwinsville. Brant: only reports are of 100, Three-Mile Bay, Oneida Lake on May 11 (Spofford) and three, May 25, Sandy Pond (Rusk). Mallard and Black Duck: spring flight very light but breeding numbers appear as good as or better than last year, particularly on the many N. Y. S. Conservation Department wildlife marshes and at Clay Swamp. Pintail: high count of 2,500 near Port Byron, Apr 26, a surprising date for that large number. American Widgeon and Wood Duck: numbers of both down sharply this spring with peaks of 50 (extremely low) and 14 (a fifth of normal) respectively. Shoveler: one male, reported Apr 25 from flooded lands near Chittenango, is quite unusual as this species is practically unknown east of Route 11.

Diving ducks had a very poor flight throughout April, especially poor on Oneida Lake.. An index of the paucity of these birds can be drawn from the high counts of certain species in April — Goldeneye, 205 (a third of the usual numbers) on Apr 6; Red-breasted Merganser, 400 (a tenth of the usual number) on Apr 19.

**Hawks — Owls:** Hawk flights along Lake Ontario, although watched more assiduously this year, failed to produce flights comparable to those of last year. A summary of counts from the Hawk Lookout at Derby Hill, Texas, follows. Goshawk: a total of ten, with a high of six on Apr 19. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 1000 plus with 500 plus on Apr 24. Cooper's Hawk: peak of 25 on Apr 13. Red-tailed Hawk: surprising are counts of 22 and 21 on May 10 and 11 respectively from that area; the majority of these were, as expected, immatures. Broad-winged Hawk: high count was 700 plus in four hours, Apr 24. Rough-legged Hawk: last date is three, May 11, a record late date (Nisbet). Golden Eagle: single birds seen and carefully identified near Texas on May 10 and 11 by I. C. T. Nisbet; on Apr 18 an immature bird was seen riding the edge of an advancing cold front three miles south of Mexico in company with a smattering of other hawks (Nisbet). Marsh Hawk: high count is 39, mostly immatures, Apr 24. Peregrine Falcon: only reports are one, May 11, Derby Hill (Nisbet), and another hunting over the Salmon River marshes May 18 (Evans). Pigeon Hawk: five reported from Apr 13 to May 11, all from Derby Hill; one seen May 12, Syracuse (Estoff, Propst).

Common Snipe: three more sites have been abandoned this spring (three unoccupied last year also) and only Clay Swamp, Skaneateles, Dead Creek, Three Rivers GMA, and Bridgeport seem to have these "sky dancers" this year. Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers: arrival dates of Apr 25 and Apr 20 are late but in keeping with the slow migration in general. Solitary Sandpiper: very scarce this spring, high count is five with date range Apr 27 to May 18. Knot: a single flock of 20, May 28, Sandy Pond, is the only report. No spring reports of Black-bellied Plover or Dowitcher. White-rumped Sandpiper: a single seen with a flock of other "peep," May 28, Sandy Pond. Sanderling: maximum count is five, May 28, Sandy Pond (a fifth of usual numbers); other shorebird counts were similarly reduced.

Mourning Dove: spring numbers up considerably, especially between Syracuse and Skaneateles; from the number of spring birds, one would surmise a light hunting toll

and/or a negligible winter kill. Short-eared Owl: three in courtship flight on Apr 13 near Bridgeport is a record late date; ? possible breeders. Saw-whet Owl: one heard May 18, Camp Woodland, Constantia, is an unusual report.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawk: one, May 6, Syracuse, is surprisingly early in view of the cold weather at that time. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: earliest report is May 13, two, about a week late.

Flicker: spring peak is 75, Apr 20, near Texas; some reduction in breeding numbers apparent. Red-headed Woodpecker: total of spring reports is ten birds; indications of possible winter kill in this scarce and conspicuous species. Kingbird: reports from Skaneateles, Oneida, and Baldwinsville indicate a good flight (up to 60 per day) and an equally good breeding population. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: singles seen May 17, 18, and 24 at Syracuse and May 18 at Selkirk Shores State Park; about six reports followed.

All swallow arrival dates were late by approximately six to eight days; both Tree Swallows and Purple Martins seem to have suffered losses from either April cold spells or earlier southern winter weather. Rough-winged Swallow: a decrease in the Camillus Valley colonies noted currently with no apparent cause. Blue Jay: late May saw a heavy lakeshore flight through Texas, Derby Hill, and Selkirk Shores State Park (up to 300/hour), this at a time when local Blue Jays are nesting. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no records of April migrants; a scattered flight in the first two weeks of May with May 18 as the departure date.

Wrens seem to have taken a severe loss in the past winter; no spring Carolina Wren reports; a panregional drop in House Wrens; Winter Wrens unreported as migrants in most areas, scarce in known breeding areas. The former colonies of the Short-billed Marsh Wrens continue deserted but this seems to be more than a single winter's effect. Mockingbird: one seen in Fayetteville through late April; another, or perhaps the same bird, seen irregularly near Manlius from May 22 on (Anglis fide Burtt). Hermit Thrush: migrants very scarce, unreported prior to Apr 20; breeding population appears slightly reduced. Gray-cheeked Thrush: singles seen May 15, 17, and 18 at Syracuse and Port Ontario; no migrational singing (usually an early June feature) noted. Bluebird and Robin: marked reduction in breeding birds across the entire region; the loss of Robins has been commented on by many observers, including non-birders; an indication of the scarcity of the Bluebirds is the total of two seen on the Onondaga Audubon Society May Day, May 18.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: singles reported from Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, May 22, and from the Rome Sand Plains, May 18 (Paquette, Wayland-Smith), the last a most unusual place for the species. Kinglets: spring numbers woefully reduced; spring peaks are 12 (Apr 20, Golden-crowned and May 2, Ruby-crowned). Pipit: four April reports of small (2-12) groups and the fact that the majority of observers saw none attest to the scarcity of this migrant this season. Northern Shrike: last reported Apr 13 (very late) near West Eaton (Carter).

**Vireos — Sparrows:** Philadelphia Vireo: only one spring report, May 18, Camillus Valley.

The warbler migration, severely retarded by cool, moist weather in late April and early May, shifted into high gear with a 12-species wave on May 10. The next ten days provided excellent, though spotty, "warblering." The remainder of May produced no waves of late warblers and no conspicuous movement of female warblers. Prothonotary Warbler: one noted May 7, Oneida Lake, is a record arrival date (Evans). Blue-winged Warbler: no spring reports. Brewster's Warbler: one present from May 18 on at Camillus Valley. Orange-crowned Warbler: three reports, all singles, of this rare spring migrant, May 17, 18, and 23. Nashville Warbler: peak count is 40 on May 11; second only to Myrtles in numbers this spring. Cape May Warbler: a remarkably short peak this year with ten/day as high count between May 10 and 13. Myrtle Warbler: a late flight with fair numbers (high of 75 on May 16). Black-throated Green Warbler: late flight but good numbers with 40 as a peak on May 16. Cerulean Warbler: with the current dying of the many elm trees from Dutch Elm Disease, one wonders how long the high population of this species will continue in the elm-arched Camillus environs and careful yearly counts should be made; high for this spring was 18 singing males on May 25. Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers: date ranges this spring are May 12 to 24 and May 18 to Jun 3 respectively, both quite late and very short. Mourning Warbler: arrival date of May 22 is somewhat early but major wave and multiple records did not come until May 20 to Jun 1. Yellow-breasted Chat: a new station for this erratic species located west of Camillus,

May 18. Wilson's Warbler: total of nine reported this spring with date range May 16 to 31. Redstart: outstandingly scarce in migration though there appears to be no decrease in the numbers of breeding birds.

Meadowlark: reports from Skaneateles, Texas, Brewerton; and Oneida indicate increased numbers of this species; this is surprising in view of the depletion of other early migrants and the marked local loss of this species in the past winter.

Cardinal: despite a hard winter, spring reports of this species are more abundant than ever, especially in the Camillus-Marcellus Valley to the west of and the Limestone and Butternut Creek Valleys to the east of Syracuse. Evening Grosbeak: present through May in small flocks (4-20) with the last report on June 1, six males near Rome (Aspinwall). Redpoll: a female, carefully observed at three-foot distance, on May 13 near Stokes is phenomenally late (Smith fide Aspinwall). Pine Siskin: a short late May flight, May 11 to 25, with a peak of 30 on May 21. Savannah and Vesper Sparrows: both late in arriving, Apr 6 and 5 respectively; daily checks at Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse, an area where they do not breed, showed these species and Swamp Sparrows migrating through until early May. Slate-colored Junco: departure date is May 17, Syracuse. Oregon Junco: an adult bird feeding with a flock of Slate-colored Juncos, Apr 20, Selkirk Shores State Park is a rare find (Spofford, Scheider, et al). Chipping Sparrow: a notable wave of these with warblers on May 13 and for the next week they flocked with anything — Siskins, Goldfinches, Warblers, and Waxwings. White-crowned Sparrow: very late in arriving (May 11) and hasty in departing (May 18). Fox Sparrow: remarkably scarce through entire spring; high count is three, Apr 24, with the total number of reports six; last date is May 1.

### 151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8

## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

In early April the weather was about normal. Birds seemed a little late in coming to us, but this could hardly be explained by the weather conditions in this region. In May the temperatures were about average, but with no hot days. The birds began to arrive at about the usual time.

The second Annual Spring Bird Census taken May 3-18 showed 157 species in this region. This is about the same as last year, but thirteen species seen last year were not reported in this census.

**Loons—Ducks:** Two Glossy Ibis were found at Perch Lake Refuge May 4 by Charles Mayhood. Later they were seen by Gordon, Allen and district game manager John Wilson. Canada Geese stayed in St. Lawrence County as late as May 12. Wood Ducks arrived early in St. Lawrence County, Apr 8. On that date Nichols saw nine species and reports that there were thousands of ducks at Chippewa Bay. At Perch Lake Refuge the Wood Duck population is good this year and more of the nesting boxes are being used this year than last year (Wilson). Pintails and Redheads stayed late at Perch River and may be nesting there. Some dates for St. Lawrence County are: Green-winged Teal and American Widgeon May 6, and Bufflehead May 13.

**Hawks—Owls:** The Osprey nest is being used again this year (Allen). Five Bald Eagles were seen at Stony Point May 10. The first date for Sora Rail at Perch Lake was May 3. Wilson finds that the Gallinule, Coot and Black Tern population at Perch Lake is high. An Iceland Gull appeared at Pillar Point Apr 6. A Barn Owl was seen in Dexter May 25 and appears to be living there (Allen). There seems to be no other recent record of a Barn Owl in this region. Gordon saw two Short-eared Owls flying over the fields north of Watertown Apr 6.

**Swifts—Sparrows:** Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed near Perch River May 18 where they are now nesting. Wilson saw few Bluebirds and Wrens this spring. Gordon reports few Hermit Thrushes and no Bay-breasted Warblers. Palm Warblers were seen in St. Lawrence County May 13 and in Jefferson County May 18. The last date for Evening Grosbeaks in Watertown was May 17. The first date for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks near Watertown was May 11 and they seemed unusually numerous this spring (Gordon).

More information has been obtained about the Richardson's Owl mentioned

in the last report. The bird was killed when it flew into a car through an open window. This happened near Ogdensburg in St. Lawrence County. The dead owl was discarded near Deferiet where it was found about four days later.

173 Haley Street, Watertown

## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

With spring temperatures below normal and continued wet weather there was an almost imperceptible blending of the season from spring to summer. There were no waves of migrants as the term applies, at least in the Champlain area. It was a general slow infiltration, and due to the coolness and the rain the individual birds did not in their usual way cooperate with song which always makes it easy to discover them. Later as the season progressed and the birds paired off to mate and raise their young the usual species to be found became more evident by their song and individual feeding habits.

Those who applied themselves, even for a few minutes each day during the peak of the migration, were rewarded by the discovery of two new species for our area, the Mockingbird and Red-headed Woodpecker. This brings the total of new species discovered in our area the last three years to five. One of these, the Clay-colored Sparrow, is a typical western species, while the other four are usually considered southern. The incursion of the new and generally southern species could therefore denote a warming trend, which certainly was not characterized by the climate we had this spring. However, the general trend is toward a dryer and warmer climate. It is not too far fetched to predict that should the trend continue more of the southern species shall eventually be found and recorded in this area.

I wish especially to thank Miss Agnes Amstutz of Tupper Lake for the thorough and complete report she submitted to me. All arrival dates and observations listed below are hers, excepted where indicated. My own observations parallel hers very closely.

**Loons — Shrikes:** Bitterns were seen in late April, but they were generally scarce throughout the period. Geese were quite common this year, and Snow Geese were seen the week of Apr 12. By Apr 12 Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, Black Ducks, and Common Goldeneyes had appeared on the lakes, although most of the water was still frozen. The Spotted Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpiper were seen the week of May 17.

A Red-headed Woodpecker, a new area record, was seen near Saranac Lake the last week of May by Mr. Greenleaf Chase, District Game Manager for the N. Y. S. Conservation Department. Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted on several occasions in late May. Canada Jays were noted the week of Apr 12. Red-breasted Nut-hatches were common throughout the period, but Bluebirds and all thrushes seemed scarce, especially the Hermit. The Mockingbird was observed near Plattsburg by Dr. Reese Nevin, head of the Biology Department at Plattsburg State Teachers College.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** An excellent warbler wave was noted on May 10. Especially common were the Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-throat, and Waterthrushes. There were few Myrtles and Parulas. The Bay-breasted Warbler was recorded.

Purple Finches were relatively scarce. Evening Grosbeaks were noted throughout the period. Juncos were quite common, both in April and May. Fox Sparrows and Savannah Sparrows had arrived by Apr 1, and Fox Sparrows were last seen Apr 19. On May 11, a cold and rainy morning, many White-crowned Sparrows were noted, and their obvious presence was even commented on by non-birders. The birds were present for some time thereafter.

Keeseville

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The spring migration in the Mohawk-Hudson region was generally late and light, a fact which cannot be explained by local weather conditions during the period. April was considerably warmer than normal, and May was just a bit cooler than might be expected. Rainfall was about normal both during April and May. The only good small land bird flight that occurred in May was the one of May 17; warblers could be readily found in numbers that day, but observers afield either a day or two before or a day or two afterwards complained of the pickings.

There were other strange aspects to the migration. Several of the more common species, most notably the Phoebe, were extremely scarce throughout the period. A thorough analysis of the spring migration will probably reveal population declines in those species which normally winter in the southern states, so hard hit by adverse weather conditions this past winter. There were a surprising number of reports of Canada Geese in May. Evening Grosbeaks continued to be abundant almost throughout the period, and a few were still present in the Mohawk Valley on May 31. There were a few reports of other winter finches.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons and Horned Grebes did not appear to be as common at Saratoga Lake as they have been in past springs. Canada Geese were frequently reported, with many of the records being for May. On May 22 and 23 an estimated 1,000 passed over Castleton along the Hudson near Albany (Cook). Other May records include 75 at New Concord on May 8 (Radke), many at Old Chatham on May 9 (Reilly), several groups in the Albany area on May 10 (Grace, Hippie, Malone, O'Meara), 15 at Vischer's Ferry on May 11 (Meritt), one at Livingston on May 17 (Munson), and 30 at Hillsdale on May 19 (Curtis). Others were seen at Crescent Reservoir on Apr 20 (Kaskan) and Apr 27 (Foote). There were several reports from Stockport along the lower Hudson in early April (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Two Blue Geese were reported from Tomhannock Reservoir on Apr 25 (Austin).

Two Redheads seen at Vischer Ponds on Apr 4 constituted the only period report (Foote, Hallenbeck). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were at Saratoga Lake on Apr 13 (Schenectady Bird Club), and four others were along Kinderhook Creek, near Chatham, on Apr 26 (Reilly).

**Hawks — Owls:** Two Turkey Vultures were seen near Thacher Park on Apr 20 (Angst). Indicative of the bird's spread in eastern New York is the group of 23 seen near Ancram, Columbia County, on Apr 15 (Munson). A Turkey Vulture was observed at Caroga Lake, in the Southern part of the Adirondack State Park, on May 6 (Murphy). There was one Bald Eagle report from along the Hudson, the date being Apr 24 (fide Radke). A Pigeon Hawk was noted on three occasions in April at Old Shatham (Reilly), and a Peregrine Falcon was seen Apr 1 at Oppenheim (Murphy).

A few Bobwhite were reported from Columbia County (ADBC), and two or three were seen near Schenectady on May 25 (SBC). Ruffed Grouse were generally described as scarce. Two or three Soras and a Common Gallinule were at Meadowdale Marsh on May 25 (SBC), and two Gallinules were at Old Chatham on May 24 (Reilly). A Virginia Rail was present in Scotia from May 26 to May 28 (Hallenbeck). Four Woodcock were flushed from a Niskayuna field on May 22 (Kaskan), and there were other reports.

The Upland Plover was first seen Apr 20 at Oppenheim (Murphy), and it was described as relatively common thereafter, with young being reported in May. Pairs of these birds were seen at Meadowdale on May 17 (SBC) and near Wolf's Hollow on May 11 (Meritt). The Pectoral and Least Sandpipers were reported only on May 17 (SBC), but there were several observations of the Greater Yellowlegs.

The Great Black-backed Gull was still reported along the lower Hudson May 17 (ADBC). An adult Bonaparte's Gull was seen along the Mohawk at Niskayuna on May 24 (Foote). A Black Tern was seen May 17 (SBC), and on May 31 about ten were at Saratoga Lake (Novak).

Both species of cuckoos were reported in fair to good numbers, with the Black-billed first being seen at Old Chatham on the early date of May 3 (Reilly). A Saw-whet Owl was heard on May 17 and subsequently at Jenny Lake (Bartlett), and at New Concord a pair of Screech Owls successfully reared at least one young (Radke).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The Eastern Nighthawk first appeared at Old Chatham on May 9 (Reilly), and the Chimney Swift was first reported on May 1 at New Concord (Radke) and Loudonville (French). On May 13 a Red-headed Woodpecker was seen near Altamont (Lemon). The first Eastern Kingbird appeared in Schenectady on May 4 (SBC). Eastern Phoebe did not appear until Apr 5, and they were definitely scarce thereafter. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Oppenheim on May 10 (Murphy), and on May 17 single birds were at Castleton (Cook) and New Concord (Radke).

About 25 Tree Swallows were over the ice at Saratoga Lake on Apr 6 (Meritt). An early Purple Martin arrived in Amsterdam on Apr 8 and was present for several days thereafter (Fitzgerald). In general, swallows were scarce throughout the period.

A Tufted Titmouse was present at Hillsdale the first week of April (Green), and another was reported virtually throughout April at Scotia (Hallenbeck). There were no May reports for this bird. Red-breasted Nuthatches were quite generally reported, but Brown Creepers seemed scarce. Carolina Wrens were not up to pre-winter numbers; only three or four were observed. A Winter Wren was at Slingerlands on May 2 (Sabin).

A Mockingbird was at West Ghent on May 16 (Erlenbach). All thrushes were reported in only fair numbers at best. In the vicinity of Schenectady, at least, Cedar Waxwings were sporadic. I know of no period reports of shrikes.

**Vireos — Warblers:** There were three reports of the Philadelphia Vireo, two on May 17 in the Schenectady area (SBC) and one on May 24 at Oppenheim (Murphy).

The warbler migration was late and, with the exception of May 17, unspectacular. Only three species, the Myrtle, Yellow, and Louisiana Waterthrush, were reported in April, and the latter two were confined to the southern part of the territory. At Gallupville several Ceruleans were seen on May 17 and thereafter (Zimmer and others). The Worm-eating Warbler was reported again from Thacher Park on May 17 (SBC), and one appeared in Amsterdam on May 18 (Fitzgerald). Some warbler arrival dates at Slingerlands include Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Nashville on May 1 and Black and White and Ovenbird on May 2 (Sabin). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was in Schenectady's Central Park on May 4 (SBC). There were several reports of the Wilson's Warbler. Late date for the Blackpoll at Loudonville was May 31 (French).

The Mourning Warbler is a rare spring transient locally. One was spotted at Red Rock on May 18, but unfortunately the observer was a cat. Identification of the dead bird was made by Myra Smilow. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported at Meadowdale on May 17 and 25 (SBC) and at Chatham Center on May 19 (Reilly).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks first put in an appearance at New Concord on May 2 (Radke), and after mid-month these birds were very conspicuous in the vicinity of Schenectady. Baltimore Orioles first appeared in Niskayuna on May 5 (Eddy). Rusty Blackbirds were reported on several occasions, including two dates in May. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Loudonville on May 2 (French).

Cardinals continued to be reported in good numbers. A nest containing three eggs was located at Amsterdam on Apr 30, and young were out of the nest on May 20 (Fitzgerald). A pair of Cardinals nested in Scotia, and there is some evidence to support the fact that a pair nested in downtown Schenectady. At Oppenheim a Cardinal was heard on May 18, and there was a report of a pair in the area (Murphy).

Evening Grosbeaks remained very late, and a few were still present at Amsterdam at the end of the period. They were last seen on May 17 at Castleton (Cook) and Nassau (Turner). Other departure dates include May 18 at Burnt Hills (Foote) and May 25 at Scotia (Hallenbeck, Meritt). A few of these birds were heard singing at Loudonville on May 16 (French). An indication as to how heavy the flight was in this area is provided by the fact that Mrs. Fitzgerald banded some 800 in her yard during April and May. A Redpoll was at Vischer Ponds on Apr 5 (Meritt), and another was at New Concord on Apr 14 (Radke). Several were at Oppenheim on Apr 16 and 17 (Murphy). Pine Siskins were present in the Schenectady area until at least May 17 (SBC).

A Henslow's Sparrow was at Slingerlands on May 1 (Sabin), and this species and the Grasshopper Sparrow were not uncommon thereafter. The White-crowned

Sparrow migration was generally an excellent one, the extreme dates being May 9 and May 23. A Lincoln's Sparrow was observed at a bird bath at New Concord on May 21, and another was heard there on May 24 (Radke).

16 *Ellen Lane, Scotia 2*

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

The Hudson Valley experienced a rather odd migration pattern during the spring of 1958, continually reflecting weather conditions that were for the most part adverse to good migration. We recall how the Atlantic coastal storms of March got the early spring migrants off to a poor and late start in many instances, and contrary to what might be expected the successive flights of birds through April and most of May never fully recovered to what could be considered their normal composure. Climatic pressures were such that there were abnormal amounts of wind from the northwest quadrant during the spring months, and this, of course, tended to hold things back by creating the adverse conditions in the form of storms and winds. There was some relief with the spring-like spell of mid-April, but even then many birds continued scarce and late. The end of April found Slide Mountain in the Catskills nearly covered with two to three feet of snow and with almost no spring arrivals to the summit area. Migrants of early May were mostly slow in coming, and not until around May 11 did a good wave occur. Another was noted around May 17 and by May 21 the migration was about over. Oddly enough then, we found geese migrating heavily in May instead of April. Hawks showed up in far better numbers in April than in March. There was a heavy unprecedented flight of Blue Jays during May. An upset was indicated by many of the earlier passerine birds coming in with the arrivals of some later date. This made for a mixed-up picture of our spring migration. In thirty years of birding around Rockland County, Bob Deed says it has been one of the strangest migrations he has ever seen.

Outstanding on the rarity list are two unusual warblers, a Prothonotary in Westchester County and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Ulster County. A Cattle Egret was seen near Goshen, Orange County.

**Loons — Ducks:** A Snowy Egret in adult plumage put in an appearance at the Todd Sanctuary, Katonah, Westchester on Apr 21 (Edward Kurka, Michel Rodack). On May 2 near Goshen, Orange County, Martha Earl was called by a local farmer to see "a big white bird" that was walking about among the cows in his pasture. The bird turned out to be a **Cattle Egret**, which is beginning to appear over more of the Northeast. This bird was also seen by two other birders, Laura Craft and Emily Akers.

Many belated flights of Canada Geese were observed going over the region. On May 9 a single Snow Goose was seen in a flock of Canadas as they flew over Lomontville, Ulster County (Henry & Ilse Dunbar). Some late dates were established for the following ducks in Rockland: Canvasbacks on Lake De Forest, Apr 13 (Mr. and Mrs. R. Deed) and the Ruddy Duck at Piermont Pier, May 17 (Steffenses, Treacy, Deignan). An Oldsquaw female was found on Congers Lake, Rockland, Apr 20 (Mr. and Mrs. F. Steffens).

**Hawks — Owls:** Although there was some hawk movement noted in March, better movements were witnessed at various times in April. Killdeers were scarce. Two White-rumped Sandpipers were observed in a flock of Red-backed Sandpipers on May 26 at the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County (Henry and Ilse Dunbar, Al Feldman). The latter sandpiper is a first record for Ulster County. The owl status seemed unchanged.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Now and then an individual of a species is apparently able to break through the weather barrier and appear as an early migrant. A Chimney Swift appeared in Rockland on Apr 22 (Treacy), which is early even in a more favorable year. The mid-April flight of Flickers was noticeably good in some areas. An early Kingbird appeared near New Paltz, Ulster County, on Apr 30 (Robert Pyle), but most birds were reported as later than usual. The Phoebe was late in arriving and when it did appear its numbers were way down in comparison to a more normal year. As far as could be ascertained they did not regain much with the advancing season.

At the Westmoorland Sanctuary, Mount Kisco, Westchester, on May 22 Stanley Grierson et al found Tree Swallows using a Wood Duck's box for nesting. The while region seemed to witness the large movement of Blue Jays, especially the May flights. Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen migrating late in some instances. Although the Robins were slow in coming, their final numbers seemed to be normal. Most observers report a low in the number of Bluebirds. A singing Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen by many observers near Congers, Rockland County, on May 16-17. A pair nested there in 1954. Both Kinglets appeared in very poor numbers this spring, and there were almost no reports received on the Pipit.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Except for a few early individuals, the vireos and warblers were rather spotty in their arrival during the first few days of May. In some areas good waves were noted around May 11 and May 17. Some observers had poor results with the migrant waves in their localities, indicating perhaps the general lateness and rapidity with which many birds went through. Irregardless of the migration pattern as a whole, alert birders will always find something interesting and often turn up unusual occurrences. So it happened down in Westchester when certain members of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, persisting in their birding activities, turned up a Prothonotary Warbler at Briarcliff Manor. The bird (a male) was discovered on May 26 by Kirk Browning of North Tarrytown, checked by Lester Walsh and reported to Joseph Malone, who recorded it. Although this visitor from the southland has been reported on a few occasions from southern New York, it has never been established as a breeding species. The above male was seen carrying nesting material into an old woodpecker's hole in a dead willow stump along the Pocantico River. No female, however, was evident at this period.

Many of the more usual warblers were quite numerous during the height of the May migration. This included the Worm-eating, Tennessee, Parula, Bay-breasted and others. The Palm Warbler on the other hand remained scarce. On May 17, while running up a high list for the day, Henry and Ilse Dunbar of Lomontville, Ulster County, carefully identified as a Yellow-throated Warbler found near Port Ewen, just south of Kingston. This is a first record for this southern warbler in Ulster County and makes another extension point of its occurrence in the Hudson Valley.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks seemed to occur in flocks more often this year. A young male Orchard Oriole appeared at Stone Ridge, Ulster County, on May 2 (F. Hough). Most of the region reported a high abundance of Cowbirds. Evening Grosbeaks lingered in Ulster County to at least May 25 (C. Young). Pine Siskins and Goldfinches were both late and scarce. Savannah Sparrows arrived at Kripplebush, Ulster County, on Apr 12, one day later than in 1957 (F. H.). Chipping Sparrows were late in arriving and seemed to be down in numbers. White-crowned Sparrows arrived a little late. White-throats were also late and not as abundant as they sometimes are. Only one report was made on the Lincoln's Sparrow, one near Kripplebush on May 17 (F. H.). It was nearly April before the Song Sparrows began to fill up the singing posts. This is unusually late for this great songster.

Accord 1

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Spring migration began with blackbirds and Cowbirds appearing at about the usual time — mid to late February. Large numbers of Redwinged Blackbirds came through in mid-March, but the sparrow migration was very disappointing. The normal small late March flocks of Song, Field and Tree Sparrows attending the grassy borders along the ocean boulevards were

noticeably absent. The usual few Vesper Sparrows were not seen and Ipswich Sparrows passed through rapidly, the reason no doubt being the extreme scarcity of grass and weed-seeds following last summer's drastic drought.

As the northward movement advanced into April, long periods of wet weather caused one of the worst recorded spring flights in years and a great scarcity of Phoebe, House Wrens, Kinglets and Hermit Thrushes. Late April and early May were so wet that Purple Martin colonies suffered drastically with observers reporting from a dozen up to fifty casualties in various colonies. Many of these dead adults were found on the ground and others in the nesting boxes. Highlighting the migration was the tremendous flight of thousands of Phalaropes around April 28 and 29 in Moriches and Shinnecock Bays. The late April flight of Indigo Buntings and the western Long Island May 4 flight of both Orioles and Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks were phenomenal. The latter was along the outer beaches, Riis Park to Oak Beach.

**Loons — Ducks:** The Loon and Gannet flights were about normal; three or four Common Loons at Great River in late April were badly oiled (perhaps the cause of other lingering Loons) and there were several Horned Grebes in attractive spring plumage. An estimated 1,000 Wilson's Petrels and 12 Sooty Shearwaters were seen on a pelagic trip 20-40 miles off the south shore of Long Island on May 31 (P. Buckley).

There were numerous reports of the Snowy Egret but a scarcity of Common Egrets and Little Blue Herons. At least three reports came in of Glossy Ibis from May 7 to May 31: one bird near Outer Bridge, Staten Island, May 7 (R. Preisick); two or more at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary May 22-24 (Caretaker Johnson, numerous observers), and two at Oak Orchard on May 31 (Dr. and Mrs. H. Kimball). No Whistling Swans were recorded. The Snow Goose was reported at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary on May 17 and 26 (Buckley, Johnson, Mayer). A male European, or Common, Teal was seen on May 1 by numerous observers, and there was a late adult male King Eider at Atlantic Beach on Apr 4 (G. Russell). Several Ruddy Ducks were present in late May at Jamaica Bay. Generally the duck flight was rather poor and the poorest wintering and spring flight of Ring-necked Ducks in years.

**Hawks — Owls:** A Turkey Vulture was at Brookhaven May 20 (D. Puleston). There were several reports of Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks, but very few of Red-shoulders to date.

There was a scarcity of Rail records. A Purple Gallinule was at Jamaica Bay May 14-16. A flight of Turnstones, Knots and Black-bellied Plovers was observed on Western Long Island in late May. Other shorebirds: Willet, Shinnecock, Apr 29, five (Wilcox); Purple Sandpiper, Jones Inlet Breakwater, May 31, three (Buckley); 1,500-2,000 Phalaropes on Moriches Bay Apr 28 (Mrs. Lukert). On Apr 29 Wilcox's figures were 3,728 (the great majority Red Phalaropes) from Remsenberg to Shinnecock Inlet, and 19 dead were picked up after striking wires near bridges at Westhampton while flying from bay to ocean. On a boat three and a half miles south of Moriches Inlet Apr 30 Wilcox counted 256 on the water and 15 small flocks flying southward. One report of Wilson's Phalarope: Jamaica Bay, May 22, a female (Johnson). Several Glaucous Gull records, including one at Orient Apr 10. A Caspian Tern was at Orient May 21 (R. Latham).

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Swifts and Tree, Barn, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and especially Purple Martins suffered in severe wet weather and appear fewer than normal. Red-bellied Woodpecker: three reports in May — Woodmere, Hempstead, and Forest Park. The scarcity of land birds which winter in the southern and Gulf states was phenomenal. Reports of most observers tell of extremely few Phoebe, Wrens, Kinglets, Brown Creepers and Hermit Thrushes, as well as resident Carolina Wrens, of which Latham reports a scarcity at Greenport this spring.

Latham, at Orient, reported only one Hermit Thrush and one Bluebird. A peculiar record was the finding of a Tufted Titmouse and Mockingbird (as well as a Kentucky Warbler) in about one-half mile of woods along Meadowbrook, near Roosevelt (Miss H. Sullivan, Mrs. E. W. Teale).

The Gnatcatcher was fairly common, especially on western Long Island near Hempstead.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Most Yellow-throated Vireos were reported from the north shore (Elliott). Two Warbling Vireos were at Southold May 26 (Alperin). The White-eyed Vireo was less abundant than usual.

Several Prothonotary Warbler records at Hempstead; Brewster's Warbler at West Gilgo, May 4 (Buckley, Carleton, Grant); Golden-winged Warbler, Brookhaven, May 8 (Puleston). There was a fair flight of warblers at Hempstead on May 12 with Worm-eating, Wilson's and Canada reported. A Chat was seen at Garden City May 6 (J. T. Nichols). At Orient, Latham saw only five migrating warblers: a Prairie on May 1 and the other four after the middle of the month. The end of the month on western Long Island was unproductive for warblers, and altogether it was a highly unsatisfactory spring for abundance of individuals.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** There was a large coastal flight of land birds May 4, mainly on western Long Island. At least seven Orchard Orioles were noted, five in one tree at Point Lookout, and eight male Bobolinks were singing at Riis Park (R. Grant); Summer Tanager, Van Cortlandt Park, Apr 12 (Linnaean field trip); two Scarlet Tanagers were present at Hempstead May 4 (A. Wollin); an abundance of Rose-breasted Grosbeak from May 4 to May 12 on western Long Island: maximum, 50 from Riis Park to Jones Beach May 4 (Buckley, Carleton, Grant); also present were an estimated 50 Evening Grosbeaks westward from Gilgo the same day, and 15 were seen at Oak Beach (Kimballs).

Other records: Blue Grosbeak, Jamaica Bay, Apr 26, one (Carleton); White-winged Crossbill, Great River, Apr 17, two (Wilcox); Indigo Bunting: about a half dozen pairs were reported in late April, or about three weeks ahead of their usual appearance. Last Pine Siskin, Hempstead, Apr 25, three (Muller). A Lark Sparrow — rare in spring — was seen at Captree May 27 (Alperin); Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows appeared abundantly at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary in late May. The British Goldfinch has been unrecorded so far.

Following are a few additional March reports which did not appear in the previous summary: Snow Goose, Mecox, Mar 1, three (R. Wilcox); one Black Vulture, Westhampton, Mar 9 (Wilcox); two Rough-legged Hawks, Brookhaven, Mar 18-28 (Puleston); Piping Plover, Sagaponack, Mar 8 (Wilcox). Snowy Owl, Montauk, Mar 23 and two pairs of Great Horned Owls, eastern Long Island (Puleston); late March Saw-whet and Long-eared Owl at Jones Beach (Queens County Bird Club).

3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island

---

## **FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

### *1958 Officers*

	President
Allan S. Klonick -----	901 Sibley Tower Building, Rochester 4
	Vice-President
Mrs. William Gary Irving -----	Van Houten Fields, West Nyack
	Corresponding Secretary
Elizabeth A. Feldhusen -----	115 William Street, Catskill
	Recording Secretary
Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich -----	193 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo 14
	Treasurer
Gerald R. Rising -----	72 Allen's Creek Road, Rochester 18

**Editor of THE KINGBIRD**  
**MINNIE B. SCOTLAND**  
**42 Continental Ave., Cohoes, New York**

### *Standing Committee Chairmen*

Bibliography: Allen H. Benton, NYS College for Teachers, Albany 3  
Conservation: Winston W. Brockner, 63 Ardmore Place, Buffalo 13  
Membership: Audrey Louise Wrede, 3109 Beverly Road, Brooklyn 26  
Publications and Research: Fred T. Hall, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo 11  
State Book: Harold D. Mitchell, 238 West Royal Parkway, Williamsville 21

**Editor of THE KINGBIRD (Vol. VIII, No. 2)**

**DR. MINNIE B. SCOTLAND**  
**42 Continental Avenue**  
**Cohoes, New York**